

The PRODUCER

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DENVER, COLORADO

No. 4



SEPTEMBER 1930

Official Organ of the
AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK
ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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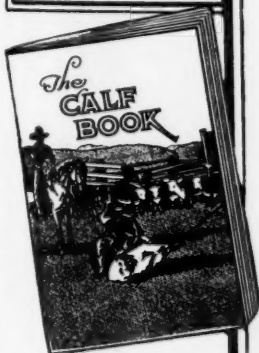
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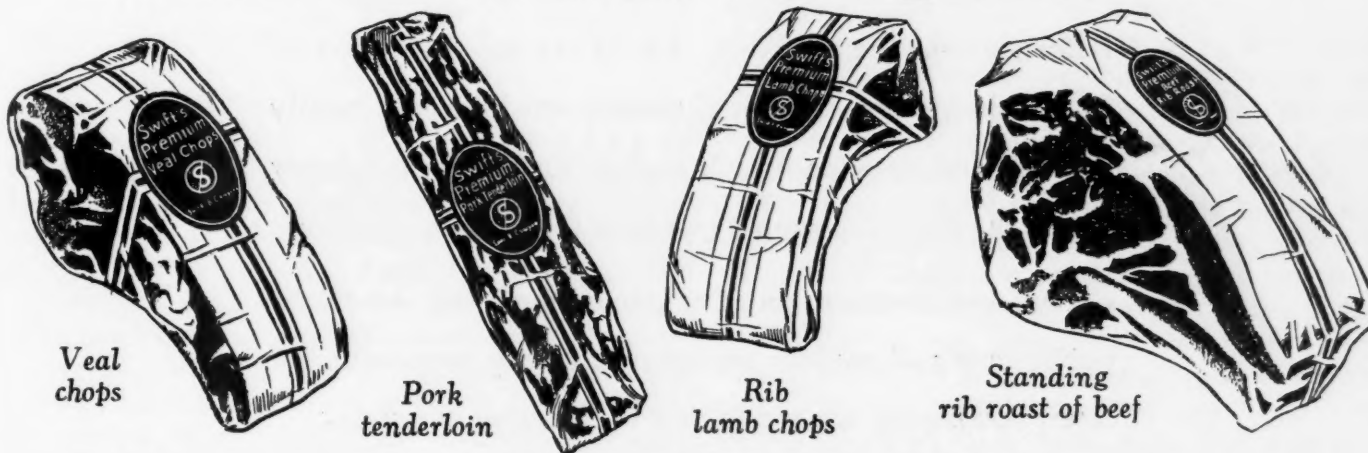
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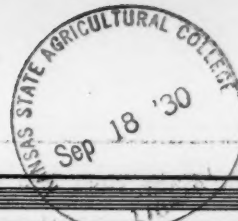
And the packer, striving by the most amazing economies and marvelous efficiency to keep the cost of meat as low as possible to the consumer, all the while paying as much as possible to the meat producer, has not the slightest influence over the situation. All he can do—all he wants to do—is his true function, namely, to interpret supply and demand, provide a cash market for the farmer every day in the year, and supply essential food to the consumer.

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THE PRODUCER

THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MONTHLY

Volume XII

DENVER, COLORADO, SEPTEMBER, 1930

Number 4

Why Baby Beef Has Not Appealed to Western Stockmen

BY DR. A. F. VASS

Range and Ranch Management, University of Wyoming

THERE SEEMS TO BE A DIFFERENCE OF opinion regarding the proper age at which to market range cattle; and it is but natural that there should be, in view of the fact that conditions are so very different in the different areas. Adjoining ranches may be operating under conditions which would warrant entirely different practices in marketing. To say that all stockmen should sell their beef output as calves, or as yearlings, or at some other age, is going too far. The time to sell range cattle is the age at which they will give the greatest returns for the capital invested and the labor expended on them. The age at which the selling price most nearly reaches the cost of production is the one that will give the best returns over a period of years. If the selling price of calves and two-year-old steers is 9 cents and 8 cents per pound, respectively, and it costs 11 cents to produce the calves and 8 cents to produce the two-year-olds, it is preferable to sell two-year-olds instead of calves. The producer should be governed by the costs of the different classes and the price that the feeder will pay. This age will vary in the different states, on the different classes of animals, and on the different ranches, as will be shown later.

Western stockmen have had a lot of advice given to them regarding when and how they should sell their cattle. We have been passing through what might be called the "Baby Beef" age, so far as speakers and writers on the subject are concerned. Small,

handy cuts from small animals, that will fit in with small apartments and small families, have been emphasized. Now D. W. Hartzell, of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, comes along and shows us that the size of the cut is within the control of the meat-cutter, and that it is not necessary to have small carcasses in order to have small, handy cuts.

Many misleading statements have been made regarding the demands for the different-aged animals. One writer says that few people want heavy beef; but he neglects to add that those who do want matured beef want it very much, which is shown by the fact that top prices for the week on the Chicago market during the past twenty years have, as a rule, been paid for heavy steers rather than for baby beef. Average weekly prices paid for steers on the Omaha market during the past seven years have been slightly higher for steers weighing 1,100 pounds and above than for steers weighing less than 1,100 pounds. Isolated cases where baby beef may have topped the market on certain days mean little. It is average prices being paid for the different classes of animals, and the cost of production, that are of vital importance to the producer.

The better hotels, restaurants, transportation companies, and certain private trade choose the cuts from the two- and three-year-old steers in preference to those from the younger animals. Cuts from older steers have more of the beef flavor which many consumers desire.

Growing Baby Beef Not Profitable on Range

What is wrong with the baby-beef or calf-selling idea, when applied to our western ranges? It seems that it *is* wrong, inasmuch as the cattlemen who are doing best are those who sell their steers as two's and three's. The men who have been selling yearlings have not, as a rule, done so well as the men who sell older steers. Those who have sold calves have lost even more.

A study of the receipts of fat steers on the Denver market during the late spring months of 1930 showed that there were ten three-year-olds and seven two-year-olds to every one yearling steer coming on the market. This gives a very good picture of the class of animals that the Colorado feeders preferred during the past season.

Stockmen who during the last eight years could buy their steer calves from their neighbors, at prevailing prices, have done much better than stockmen who sold them the calves. This has been due to the fact that the prevailing prices paid for calves have been much lower, when compared with the cost of production, than the prices paid for the older classes. Stockmen last fall held their calves for a price that would pay their production costs; but there were very few buyers, as shown by the Denver receipts. The prices being asked for calves were about double the prices paid for calves during the 1921-26 period. The above statements are based on five years of detailed study of all operating transactions, including receipts and expenses on sixty prairie cattle ranches and sixty mountain-valley ranches in Wyoming.

Similar four-year studies made in Colorado on prairie ranches showed that, of the twenty-two ranches studied, the two which were making the highest returns were selling three-year-old steers. Our studies showed that, when other things were equal, the men selling two- and three-year-old steers had a better chance for success than the men selling calves and yearlings.

Most stockmen in Wyoming prefer to market their steers as two's, and a few still run three's. Those who sell calves and yearlings have in many cases been forced to sell young, due to heavy loans by the banks, accompanied with directions from the banks as to the time to sell. The average banker is not necessarily well versed in live-stock production, and in many cases is no better qualified to give the stockman advice on his operations than is the stockman to give the banker advice on banking.

The idea of selling calves originated on the general farms of the Middle West, where pasture is limited and calf crops high. The idea spread to Texas, which has long been the breeding-ground for the western ranges to the north. Wyoming started in the cattle

business by raising the calves in Texas, and bringing them to our ranges later in life to be finished. When the great open ranges in Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska were fenced, the Wyoming stockman found it more profitable to raise his own calves than to attempt to ship them in, although some of the best and most successful cattlemen in the state continue to ship in yearlings from the southwestern ranges.

Practices which are fine for the general farm and the Corn Belt may be unsound when applied to western ranches. We should know the local conditions as well as the national before making recommendations.

Why It Is Deemed Better to Sell Older Steers

The reasons why it has been advisable to sell two- and three-year-old steers instead of calves and yearlings produced on our Wyoming cattle ranches may be listed as follows:

1. Due to the 55 to 70 per cent calf crop, the cost per pound of the steer calves is 2 to 3 cents more than the cost per pound of the animals if carried until they are two's. The gains on yearlings and two's can be put on at less cost per pound than the gain from cows in the form of calves. The feeder in the past has not been willing to pay this additional cost, but has paid approximately the same per pound for three-year-old steers as he has for calves.

2. The older the animal, up to three years of age, the better it will finish on our native grasses and hays, and the better the price at the terminal markets. The three-year-old steers in some cases go directly to the killing-pens, and may under those conditions bring the higher prices paid for slaughter cattle. The feeder will also pay higher prices for the animals in good flesh, as they will finish in a shorter period. The above condition accounts for the fact that three-year-old range steers sell for about 8 per cent more per pound than yearlings.

3. Drought years, with severe winters, may force a reduction in the size of the herd. If the general practice is to sell two's and three's, the operator can cut back into his herd and reduce the number without disrupting his breeding herd, the building-up of which has required years. The older steers enable the stockmen to convert their cheap feed into meat during the good years, and convert that stored meat into cash during the years of scant feed, instead of being required to purchase high-priced feeds to carry their cattle through the winter.

4. Wyoming and other western states are subject to severe years, when the grass and hay crops are short, and when snow covers the ranges. The older steers can weather these unfavorable conditions better than the cows and calves, and do so at a lower



TYPICAL SUMMER RANGE IN ABSAROKA MOUNTAINS

Photo by C. J. Belden

cost per pound of live weight. It is not necessary to keep the older steers gaining in weight, which is the case with the younger animals.

5. The average prairie ranch has more grazing land than it has hay and grains for winter feeding. The two- and three-year-old steers will make better use of these rough and open winter ranges, and require less grain and hay, than the cows and calves. The feed on the grazing land is the cheapest feed the stockman has, and the more use he can make of it, and still keep his animals in fair condition, the better his chances for success. The larger the proportion of cows and calves on our ranches, the more winter feed we must have per cattle unit; and winter feed is the limiting factor on most of our ranches.

6. The summer gains are the cheapest gains, and the ones on which the producer makes his money. Winter gains are expensive, and cost more per pound than the beef is worth. The practical stockman, therefore, tries to get by with as little winter feeding and winter gain as possible. The younger the animal, the more winter feed it must have per 100 pounds of weight; for it must be kept growing, or it will become stunted. The winter gain in weight is expensive gain, and is not so necessary in the case of the old steers.

7. Cows and calves require more feeding and more labor, and have a higher death loss, than the

older steers. The death loss on two- and three-year-old steers on our mountain-valley ranches was about 1.5 per cent, whereas the death loss was 2.5 per cent on cows and over 3 per cent on calves.

Due to the above reasons, we have continued to recommend to most of our ranchers that they follow the practice of selling their steers as two's and three's, and that the heifers not needed for replacement be sold as calves or yearlings. A study of the results of such large feeders as the Kent & Burke Company shows that there is a better market demand for the heifers when finished under 800 pounds. This means that heifer calves, rather than yearlings, should be placed in the feed-lot. Keeping the heifer calves another year does, however, give the stockman more opportunity to select the better animals for his breeding herd. Whether this is the best practice depends on the price that the feeder is willing to pay for the calves as compared with the yearlings. The calves should command a premium of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 cents per pound above the yearlings, in order to be as profitable to the producer.

One-Fourth of Cow Herd Culled Each Year

The general practice on our ranches is to sell the cows, that did not raise calves that year, in the fall, provided they come off the range in good flesh. The

old cows that have seen six years of service are also culled out. The above method takes out about one-fourth of the cow herd each year. It requires from two-thirds to three-fourths of all the heifers from a 65 per cent calf crop to replace the cows in the breeding herd. The heifers that are not used for replacement should, under most conditions, be sold as calves or yearlings.

We recommend three-year-old steers on some of our prairie ranches, depending on their organization and feed facilities. As a rule, there is more reason to run three-year-old steers on our prairie ranches, due to the limited winter feed, than on our mountain-valley ranches. This may be contrary to some recommendations which have been made, but it represents the facts as we find them on Wyoming ranches.

We may wonder why we hear so much of calf production and baby beef, and why we are told that the consumer is demanding the younger animals, while the price being paid for the different classes is usually better for the older ones. The producer judges the demand for a product by what the consumer will pay for it. The western stockman has no reason to think that the demand for older stuff is not fully as good as for the younger animals. In many cases it has been better.

One writer raises the question: "Is the baby-beef idea being carried too far?" That is a question for the farmer of the Middle West and the stockman from the Southwest to answer. It has never been a question in Wyoming, where the calf crop of from 55 to 70 per cent makes the cost of the calf greater than the feeder can afford to pay under present conditions. Our stockmen find it economical to keep the steer calf two or three more years, in order to reduce the cost per pound of the animal.

On the other hand, the Corn Belt farmer, with his high calf crop and limited pasture, no doubt finds it more profitable to sell the animals young. The fact that the younger the animal, the more gain it will put on per 100 pounds of feed, is old and well established, and was well brought out by Professor Haecker in his feeding experiment at the Minnesota station.

This might be interpreted to mean that the cattle-feeder would make more by feeding calves in preference to older steers—a practice which is being recommended by some of our western experiment stations. As a matter of actual experience, such is not necessarily the case. The feeder expects, and usually obtains, a 2- to 3-cent per pound spread between his purchase price and his sale price. The two- and three-year-old steers will finish in a shorter time, and therefore enable the feeder to make his spread of 2 to 3 cents per pound on his original purchase with a shorter feed period. He can secure this 2- to 3-cent

spread with about the same amount of feed on the older animals as he can on the younger ones, due to the shorter feed period. The older animals being heavier means a larger weight on which to base the spread. The cost per pound of gain put on in the feed-lot is less on the younger animals, but in either case the actual feed-lot gain is usually a losing proposition. It is the spread in price on the original weight of the animal that makes feeding profitable. This explains why the feeders can make as much on the older animals as on calves, even though the cost per 100-pound gain is less on the younger animals.

Cow-and-Calf Basis Different from That of Ewe-and-Lamb

One writer on the subject has gone so far as to compare the ewe-and-lamb industry with the cow-and-calf industry. This writer states that the sheepmen have proved themselves smarter than the cattlemen by a quarter of a century, and that the handwriting on the wall points conclusively to the range cattle business being organized almost entirely on a cow-and-calf basis. As this comparison has frequently been made at state and national conventions, it might be worth while to analyze it more carefully.

The flavor of the sheep carcass, as the animal advances in age, becomes less pleasing to the palate of the average consumer. Hot-house lambs top the market, with fat lambs under 84 pounds next. Heavy lambs are next in line, with wethers and ewes bringing up the rear. The average Chicago prices per hundred paid for the lambs, wethers, and ewes of the same grade from 1921 to 1926 were \$13.22, \$10.76, and \$6.31, respectively. The fact that lambs sold for 23.7 per cent more per pound than did the yearling wethers made it rather easy for the wool-growers to understand the advisability of selling their surplus animals as lambs. Handwriting on the wall of that type is easy to read, if ignoring it means heavy losses.

The cow-and-calf basis is very different. The average consumer would as soon have the more highly flavored cuts from the two- and three-year-old steers, and in many cases prefers them. The average price per 100 pounds on the Chicago market for the 1921-26 period was \$9.25 for steers under 1,100 pounds and \$9.41 for steers of the same quality weighing over 1,100 pounds. The average price received by forty-seven mountain-valley ranches in Wyoming in 1926 was \$7.50 per 100 for calves, \$6.79 for yearling steers, \$7.07 for two-year-old steers, and \$7.45 for three-year-old steers. Western stockmen must have 2 to 3 cents more per pound for calves than for the older steers in order to cover production costs.

Instead of our western cattlemen being twenty-five years behind the sheepmen and the time, I am not so sure but that the cattlemen who have dropped down to selling calves are not twenty-five years or more ahead of the time when it will be good practice to sell calves. In selling calves, they enter into more direct competition with the general farmer of the Middle West than they do in selling two- and three-year-old steers.

There is a good demand for a certain percentage of two- and three-year-old steers. The market will consume a limited number at a premium above the young stuff. The study of this demand indicates that it is equivalent to the steers which can be produced on western ranges. The Southwest is not included. If the Corn Belt farmers kept their calves until they were two's, there no doubt would be an oversupply of the heavier animals, which would lessen the demand. Wyoming ranges, and similar areas, are well adapted to produce these older steers, for the reasons given above, and our conditions are not so favorable to the breeding of calves as are found on the general farms of the Middle West. On the other hand, the general farmer, with his limited pasture and a surplus of supplementary winter feeds, can do best by disposing of his cattle at an early age.

It would, therefore, seem economical for our western range cattle-producers to continue to market their

steers as two's and three's, and for the Corn Belt and similar regions to market their cattle as baby beef.

Until there is some practical way of increasing the calf crop on the range from 65 to 90 per cent, or until the feeder is willing to pay the 2 to 3 cents per pound premium on calves which it costs to produce them, the range cattle-producer of the West will continue the practice which is at present showing the best returns—that of selling two- and three-year-old steers.

SELLING CHOPS A LA TIFFANY

A NEW-STYLE MEAT "DEMONSTRATION STORE," operated by the Hygrade Food Products Company on Broadway in New York City, is thus described in the *National Provisioner*, from which we also have borrowed the caption over these lines:

"Carpeted floors, mirrored walls, art lighting fixtures, salesgirls in neat costumes—instead of sawdust under foot and butchers in bloody aprons.

"Packaged meats in latest styles, sold from tile-and-plate-glass refrigerated cases—instead of carcasses and wholesale cuts hanging bare on rows of hooks.

"Chairs, tables, and reading-lamps—instead of chopping-blocks and old-style ice-boxes.

"This is the 'butcherless' meat-store of the future."

The company does not intend to enter the retail meat business, we are told, but merely to show the trade how attractive a meat-shop can be made.

Sounds appetizing enough. The only question is: Who will-pay for the show?



WYOMING BEEF CATTLE HEADED FOR MARKET

Photo by C. J. Belden

EARLY TRAIL DAYS

BY TEDDY BLUE

Gilt Edge, Montana

YOU ASK ME TO WRITE ABOUT THE FIRST TEXAS trail herds that came to Montana. There had been a few herds of Texas cattle driven to Montana in the seventies, but they came from Colorado or Utah and were not through herds. (A herd trailed from Texas to Montana in one season's drive was called a "through herd.") The first through herds came up to Tongue River, in Custer County, in 1880. An Englishman named Grooms turned loose two herds on Otter Creek. They were nearly all winter-killed, as the winter of 1880-81 was one of the hardest ever known on the range from Texas to Canada.

In 1881 the old firm of Scott & Hanks put in a trail herd on Tongue River. The next year they moved over on Powder River, at the mouth of Little Powder, where they ran a big outfit. Bud Burdett—now of Spokane, Washington—was their range foreman for ten years. In 1882 several outfits turned loose trail herds in southeastern Montana, and in 1883 they filled up the range clear to the Yellowstone River. In 1884 they crossed the Yellowstone and filled up the Big Dry range. Two herds belonging to the Niobrara Cattle Company (Newman Brothers, of St. Louis) went clear to the mouth of the Musselshell River, where they turned the lead herd loose on Crooked Creek. I was with this herd. Johnny Burgess was trail boss, and he set the stake at the north end of the Texas trail, as Kansas passed a quarantine law against Texas cattle on account of Texas fever, and no more herds could go through. A few herds came up through New Mexico and Colorado, but after 1884 nearly all Texas cattle for northern ranges were shipped to points in Wyoming or Montana and trailed to their ranges.

Cattle came north in what might be called waves. In 1876 Dennis Sheedy turned loose 15,000 Texas cattle between the South and North Platte Rivers. No range cattle were north of the North Platte until 1879. In 1878 the treaty was made with the Sioux Indians, who gave up all Wyoming and western Nebraska. During the year 1879, 350,000 Texas cattle crossed the North Platte River, mostly going into the Powder and Tongue River country in Wyoming. A lot went to western Nebraska and onto the Laramie Plains. John R. Blocker, of San Antonio, Texas, said that in 1883 and 1884, 500,000 Texas cattle passed through Ogallala going north; and Blocker knew more about the Texas trail than any other man who ever pointed a cow toward the North Star. He was one of the best ropers that ever busted the Red River when she was up in the willows. His road brand was known wherever a Texas cow ran.

Emerson Hough, in his "North of 36," gives a very good description of an early-day trail herd. It was a new business then. He made only a few mistakes. He should have made it 1869, as that was the year the K. P. got to Abilene, and I do not believe Texas men would have allowed a girl along to go through the Nation, as it was not any too safe for men for several years after that.

The first herds were tough outfits compared with what they were toward the last. I do not believe anyone really knows how many million cattle went up the trail from Texas bound for the northern ranges, but they certainly were the salvation of Texas, as the money from them made Texas what it is today—the second best state in the Union (Montana always first), even if it did go for Hoover.

Big cow outfits started up in New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Montana. The Hall

Brothers ran an outfit in the San Luis Valley in Colorado, and John Hitson one by Deertrail. Iliff had an outfit in northern Colorado and western Nebraska. In Nebraska, I. P. Olive, who went to the penitentiary for hanging two rustlers (he never ought to have served a day, in my opinion), had a lot of cattle on the South Loup River. So had Cody and North. They were on the Dismal Fork of the Loup, and on the North Platte was John Bratt. Bill Paxton ran about 50,000 Keystone cattle. Above him was Bosler Brothers' big outfit, and still higher up was Dennis Sheedy. In 1883 they claimed that there were 65,000 cattle wearing Sheedy's iron. North of him, on Snake River, Nebraska, was the Heart outfit, owned by Millet & Maybury. On Running Water were Hunter & Evans, also Newman Brothers. These last three outfits moved up to Montana in 1884. The Swan Cattle Company ran one of the biggest outfits on the northern range. Matt Murphy ran an outfit on the Piney, in Johnson County, Wyoming. The Anglo-American Cattle Company ran several outfits in Wyoming. Pratt & Ferris and Stoddard ran big outfits on Clear Fork of Powder.

I have not mentioned all the big outfits in Nebraska and Wyoming. I know them all, but it would take too long to write them up. In Montana, Granville Stuart started the first big cow outfit in the central part of the state in 1880. The firm's name was Davis, Hauser & Stuart. In 1884 they turned it into the Pioneer Cattle Company. Con Kohrs bought Davis out, and was the president in 1881. A lot more outfits started in here. In fact, by 1886 the Montana range was chuckful of cattle—overstocked. The only new range left in Montana was north of the Missouri River, on the reservation. Granville Stuart got permission from the government and moved about half the cattle off this range across the river, but the hard winter of 1886-87 killed from 60 to 80 per cent of all the range cattle in Montana, and broke the back of the range business. A lot of them kept going and tried to build up again, but the big outfits nearly all quit.

I came up to Montana with a herd in 1883. We turned loose on Armells Creek, south of Forsyth. In the spring of 1884 I went to work for T. J. Bryan, the first president of the Montana Stock Association. That is how I attended the first meeting. I have attended about forty in all. I first met Theodore Roosevelt in 1884, on Powder River, on the fall round-up. He was a good fellow. He made a hit with us at Powderville when he told Mason, who ran the stage station and saloon, to give us all we could drink—and we sure done 'er! Those old-time cowmen—what a big-hearted bunch they were! They always played the game straight up to win. No one ever knew them to copper a bet. They surely were God's own people. I do not like to write about the old-time cow-punchers who rode for wages, as it always seems like self-praise to me, who lived and worked with them from 1871 till now, 1930; but I will say no working-men on earth were so loyal to their outfits as they.

I often think of the days when some cowman would start a herd up the trail, give the boss a roll of bills, and tell him: "I will see you in Miles City." From that day it was *our* herd. Nothing could stop it. The wagon might break down—we would pack the beds and grub till we struck a town. The rivers might be bank-full, but we crossed them. Big electric storms came up in the night, and the cattle would run like buffaloes; but you never heard of a herd being turned loose or lost. In a night run the next jump might mean death, and we knew it; but I never knew a man to quit. The pride we took in bringing the herd through in good shape! And how careful they were in handling the beef herd in the fall, as, once you let them run, they keep it up! And that is where the money is. Yes, sir, forty years ago the cow-punchers took more interest in the cattle than the owners do nowadays.

CATTLE BUSINESS OUT OF WOODS

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CATTLE ARE NOT REALIZING WAR PRICES, OR EVEN the money paid in 1928 and 1929, but the industry is out of the woods and definitely on the up-grade. So far as drought is concerned, the worst is known. Such exaggeration as the sensation-mongers indulged in has been exposed, feeders have returned to the market, and beef-making will resume its normal channels. Between a collapsing cattle market and a soaring corn trade, feeders were justified in wondering just where they were at. Now they know. While feed is neither cheap nor abundant, there is enough to go around, and, with economy, it will go a long way.

"Inside stuff" on the August upturn of \$2 to \$3 per cwt. in fat cattle, accompanied by appreciation of 75 cents to \$1.50 in stockers and feeders, is scarce. That there was something behind it is generally sensed. From a man who usually knows what is happening I got this explanation:

Along in early August certain bankers, who have been financing packers since the war, came to the conclusion that low cattle prices, like low wages, are detrimental to business. Emulating the White House occupant, they called a conference. Packers were asked how they were doing, and, replies being favorable, the desirability of infusing feeders with confidence was broached.

"The country is not putting in cattle in seasonal numbers," suggested one banker. "First thing you know, you will be out of cattle, and you cannot make money on the beef you do not sell. Better offer feeders some inducement to get into the stocker market."

The admonition was heeded. On the following day fat cattle advanced 25 to 50 cents per cwt., and for two weeks the upturn continued uninterrupted. Beef trade responded under more favorable weather conditions. In fact, the stagnant summer trade would have been impossible had it not been for high temperatures that largely eliminated meat from the national diet. Cattle-owners decided to "stay" as the market turned in their favor, and, as the bankers expected, the country was in the stocker market with both feet. It was a definite turn in the tide.

A year ago the fat-cattle market broke \$2 per cwt. late in August, at the same time that that much was put on this year. Then it was at a dangerously high level, with tops at \$16 to \$17, and had far to fall. September and October found every stock-yard in the country glutted with big, overdone steers that had overstayed their logical market. This year the break came earlier, and the "stayers" moved their overdone bullocks in July and August, so that supply conditions of the latter part of 1929 cannot be repeated. Present indications are that finished steers are anything but plentiful, even if not scarce, and are headed to higher levels, the \$13 quotation being possible, if not probable. On the other hand, a September-to-November run of grass beef will widen the spread and operate to the disadvantage of warmed-up bullocks, which got out of line on the August bulge. Whatever happens in the fat-cattle market, the rest of the year is likely to discredit most of the prediction now on tap.

There is another probability. It is that feeders will resume competition with packers in fleshy steers, in which they could not be interested during the April-to-August period. When weight does not go into feed-lots, it cannot come out for a considerable time. What creates an oversupply of heavy cattle is staying with them to nurse a market; and new feed conditions will have a tendency to discourage that practice, as corn is, and will be, high. Feeders are in a mood to take profits,

and will let cattle go the moment they are decently fit for the butcher.

One reason for the sharp August advance was that killers did not get their seasonal supply of grass beef. Few cattle moved from Osage and Flint Hills pastures in the Southwest during August, and, after initial shipments from the north-western grazing area had furnished a try-out, owners concluded not to sit in at a bargain sale. With little grass beef to work on, killers were forced to buy \$8.50 to \$10.50 warmed-up and grassy native cattle to replenish coolers. They also missed their summer supply of native grass steers—red cattle that, owing to dairy expansion, are rapidly disappearing from both beef and stocker supply.

Killers are running out of a crop of long-fed bullocks dressing 60 to 65 per cent, and weighing anywhere from 1,200 to 1,700 pounds, into one dressing 57 to 60 per cent, with considerably less weight, which will mean less tonnage, if not deficient numbers. That beef production during the last four months of 1930 will run considerably below that of the previous corresponding period, especially with respect to tonnage, is a cinch bet. During the twelve-month period ending with June, 1930, cattle slaughter under federal inspection was somewhat less, on a numerical basis, than during the previous corresponding period, and in the primary stage of that production the whole North American continent was ransacked for stockers and feeders. It is not improbable that the real cattle situation is developing and will reach the exposure stage during 1931.

MIDSUMMER CATTLE OUTLOOK

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE CATTLE INDUSTRY are likely to improve in the next twelve months, according to the outlook report issued last month by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. "Market supplies of cattle in the next five or six months," says the bureau, "probably will be about the same as a year ago, but supplies of fed cattle during the first half of 1931 are expected to be smaller than in 1930. Demand for stockers and feeders this fall will not equal that of last year, and for that reason slaughter is likely to be somewhat greater. Prospects favor a material advance in cattle prices in the next twelve months.

"Cattle production has expanded moderately since the low point in numbers was reached in 1928. Reduced demand for beef, owing to unfavorable business conditions, together with a declining price-level for all commodities, has caused a marked decline in cattle prices in the year just past. By mid-August of this year, prices of all grades had declined below the low levels of 1926, and prices of slaughter steers were 38 per cent below the level of 1929. This decline, which carried the market to the lowest levels in five years, accompanied the smallest marketings and the smallest inspected slaughter since 1921.

"Although feed crops have been reduced somewhat by drought, the areas affected and the numbers and distribution of live stock are such that, barring further material crop damage, there seems to be no justification for any extensive liquidation of live stock. In those sections of the Corn Belt where most of the cattle are fed, supplies of hay and feed grains other than corn are fairly large. Although corn production has been reduced materially, the crop in the principal cattle-feeding areas will be relatively better than in other sections. Recent rains have greatly improved Corn Belt pastures. The deficiency in the supply of coarse grains may be made up in part by feeding wheat, where the relation of the price of wheat to that of other grains makes it desirable to do so.

"Range conditions in a few of the important cattle states are poor, and prospective supplies of feed and forage are short. From such areas heavy marketings of cattle are likely to occur this fall, since there seems to be little disposition to contract

further obligations for the purchase of feed with which to carry increased numbers of cattle. Increased marketings from these areas will be offset to a large extent by decreases in other sections where range and feed conditions are favorable for carrying cattle through the winter.

"In previous years of short corn crops and declining cattle prices there has been a pronounced tendency for cattle-feeders to curtail feeding operations. This resulted in smaller supplies of fed cattle—particularly long-fed, well-finished cattle—coming on the market the following year, and this in turn caused a marked advance in the prices for such cattle. The movements of cattle prices after the harvesting of a short corn crop were especially favorable for well-finished cattle marketed in the late fall after the harvest and in the following summer, and for the lower grades marketed in the spring."

HEIFER STEAK AS GOOD AS THAT FROM STEER

RECOGNITION OF SEX EQUALITY HAS BEEN EXTENDED to the bovine field. At the conference of research workers at twenty-six state agricultural experiment stations and experts from the Department of Agriculture in Chicago, August 11-14, announcement was made that tests had conclusively shown that, up to a weight of 700 pounds, heifers produced beef which was just as palatable and desirable in every way as that derived from the more popular steer, besides being equally economical. This, of course, is contrary to a belief of long standing, which many had come to suspect was not based on facts.

The conference was the annual gathering, for discussion, reports, and comparison of notes, of representatives of the many agencies which since 1924 have been investigating the factors influencing the quality and palatability of meat, under the direction of the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

In view of the corn shortage, and the consequent tendency to feed wheat to live stock, the conference felt that a study of wheat should be made in connection with the work which has to do with the effect of different feeds on meat. Reports were made of experiments on this subject, which have shown that wheat is a good feed.

In discussing the work for the future, E. W. Sheets, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, who is secretary of the co-operative project, stated that a committee has been appointed to formulate plans leading toward the establishment of a record-of-performance project for cattle and sheep. Such a project is already in progress of development for hogs.

Another line of work looked upon as important deals with the subject of the relation of different ages in cattle to the quality and palatability of the meat. Emphasis is to be placed in this stage of the investigations on studies of females. Considerable work already has been done on steers.

In sex studies with cattle it is hoped to determine the point at which fed steer calves should be slaughtered to be strictly comparable with fed heifers. It is now recognized that heifers reach a desirable market finish more quickly than steers.

It was proposed that the studies of utilization of grass in beef production should include the influence of different kinds of supplements. The color of flesh and fat is to be an important consideration in such studies.

The degree of finish of the different classes of meat animals making them the most economical and desirable from the standpoint of both producer and consumer was viewed by the conference as very important.

The conference decided to continue the work on the aging or ripening of lamb in the cooler.

Work with pork in the future will include projects con-

cerning the effects of hardening versus softening feeds upon degree of fatness, palatability, and other factors. Studies of the Wiltshire side are to be continued and expanded to include additional feeds and breeds. Increased effort is to be made to obtain more definite information as to the reaction of the English market to American-produced Wiltshires.

The importance of fat in meats has been shown by a number of investigations. A thin but complete external fat-covering over a roast has been found to reduce evaporation loss and the time required for cooking, and to improve the juiciness and flavor of the lean itself. Thick external fat is wasteful and unnecessary for meat satisfaction.

Investigations under way have shown that the beef from yearlings is as palatable as beef from older or heavy cattle, which are much more expensive to produce.

Feeding studies have revealed the fact that beef from grass-fed cattle is just as tender, juicy, and palatable as beef from corn-fed cattle of the same degree of fatness. Beef from cattle fed corn on grass is more attractive than grass-fed in appearance, but no more nutritious than beef from cattle fed grass alone.

LAMB-ADVERTISING FUND REDUCED

THE AMBITIOUS PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL WOOL Growers' Association, involving the collection of \$400,000 a year for the purpose of increasing the consumption of lamb through advertising, seems to have encountered some unexpected opposition. At a meeting of the board of directors in Salt Lake City, August 23, on motion of California's representatives, it was voted to reconsider the resolution passed on June 30, recommending the assessment by each state holding membership in the association of its share in the \$400,000 fund. A more modest scheme, limiting the amount to be spent for advertising to \$100,000, was thereupon substituted. This will be in addition to the \$25,000 annually set aside for the support of the association.

This action will come as a surprise to many who had been led to believe that the levying of the larger sum was an assured fact, especially after it had gained the approval of the Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Texas, Colorado, and Montana organizations. It seems that the coast contingent, who were openly skeptical as to the feasibility of the plan, had succeeded in instilling some of their doubts into the minds of the other delegations, with the result that it was deemed wiser to pare down the demand on the pocketbooks of growers, in spite of the efforts of President Hagenbarth and Secretary Marshall to have the increase ratified.

As a further aid to the depressed live-stock industry, the executive committee decided to request the Forest Service to reduce grazing fees on national forests 50 per cent for the current season.

MONTANA PLAN OF CO-OPERATIVE LAMB-FEEDING

A PLAN OF GROWER AND FEEDER CO-OPERATION in the finishing of lambs has recently been developed in Montana. The grower signs up his lambs with the Montana Wool Co-operative Marketing Association, and this organization will place the lambs with the feeder through the National Feeder and Finance Corporation. For this service the Montana organization charges 10 cents per head. At the time of shipping, the Montana association receives the lambs, sorting off the fat end and lambs which cannot be classed as feeding lambs. The latter are sent to market, and the feeder lambs

are weighed with an overnight shrink or its equivalent, and consigned as a feeder shipment. If the shipment is large, the feeders will be sorted and divided by the National Feeder and Finance Corporation, and while en route the shrink is prorated among several feeders.

The feeder fattens the lambs under the supervision of the National Feeder and Finance Corporation, the feeder being charged 25 cents per cwt. for this service. The feeder pays the portion of the freight that is due at the unloading point, but at the final settlement is credited with half of the freight bill.

When the lambs are ready to go, they are marketed through the National Live Stock Marketing Association, and final settlement is made on the following basis:

1. The grower and the feeder each pay half the freight and selling charges on the market.
2. The feeder on his gain in weight, based on range weight and market weight, gets the market price per pound for the fat lambs, plus 30 per cent, less deductions mentioned above.
3. The grower gets the balance, less the charges mentioned above.

Arrangements are now being made to advance the grower up to \$1.50 per head on his lambs at the time he makes the agreement.

The feeder feels he is assured of something for his feed in this way. His biggest risk is that of death loss. Loss from the range to the feeder is borne by the grower.

THE LIVE-STOCK DOLLAR

IN THE AUGUST ISSUE OF "THE PRODUCER" WE printed a statement emanating from the Bureau of Railway Economics, showing that out of every dollar paid by purchasers for live stock during 1929 the producer received 94.3 cents, 3.7 cents being expended for freight and 2 cents for other distribution charges, including commission, yardage, and feed costs. In 1924 the amount going to the shipper, on the same authority, was 91.4 cents, 5.6 cents being spent for transportation and 3 cents for other costs.

That this does not imply a reduction in transportation and commission charges, as might be inferred, but is solely due to the fact that the producer in 1929 got more dollars for his live stock than he did in 1924, is pointed out by Charles E. Collins, of Kit Carson, Colorado, in a letter to the *Kansas City Daily Drovers' Telegram* of July 30. Mr. Collins writes in part:

"Your editorial in Friday's *Telegram*, under the heading, 'The Live Stock Market Dollar,' is very interesting, but I am afraid it is misleading to many. You should have gone further and explained what are the reasons for this beneficial condition to the producer in marketing his live stock. No doubt many will think there have been reductions in freight rates and marketing charges during this period; but, if I am not mistaken, the condition is due entirely to the higher prices received during that period for our cattle and hogs, which the railroads were in no way responsible for. When they make up the figures for 1930, they perhaps will not be so anxious to broadcast them."

Admitting that Mr. Collins' point is well taken, in that freight and other costs of marketing actually remained steady during the period, the *Telegram* shows in tabular form the changes that have taken place in purchase prices of live stock, freight, and other charges for each year between 1924 and 1929, on the basis of the bureau's figures. This table we condense as below:

	1924	1929	6-Year Av.
Cattle and calves—			
Price per cwt.....	\$ 6.48	\$11.21	\$ 8.47
Freight .....	.37	.38	.36
Other costs .....	.18	.18	.18
Hogs—			
Price per cwt.....	7.35	10.07	9.81
Freight .....	.37	.36	.37
Other costs .....	.23	.26	.24
Sheep—			
Price per cwt.....	12.42	13.10	13.35
Freight .....	.74	.67	.70
Other costs .....	.37	.39	.38
All three classes—			
Price per cwt.....	7.36	11.24	9.35
Freight .....	.41	.41	.40
Other costs .....	.22	.22	.22
Net proceeds to seller..	6.73	10.61	8.73

INTERMOUNTAIN MARKETING ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED

ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERMOUNTAIN LIVE Stock Marketing Association was perfected at a meeting in Denver on August 6, attended by representatives from all the states holding membership in the association. A board of directors was elected, consisting of two members from each state—one representing cattle and one sheep. This board has the following make-up:

- For Colorado—
Field Bohart, Colorado Springs, cattle.
J. R. Grier, Las Animas, sheep.
- For Montana—
Julian Terrett, Brandenburg, cattle.
C. N. Arnett, Bozeman, sheep.
- For New Mexico—
J. J. Lane, Roswell, cattle.
R. C. Worswick, Roswell, sheep.
- For Utah—
J. M. Macfarlane, Salt Lake City, cattle.
H. W. Harvey, Salt Lake City, sheep.
- For Wyoming—
Perry J. Williams, Granite Canon, cattle.
Alex Healy, Worland, sheep.

At a subsequent meeting of the board the following officers of the association were chosen: Field Bohart, Colorado, president; Louis Vinke, Montana, manager; Harry Williams, Wyoming, secretary-treasurer. Later Mr. Bohart, due to pressure of other business, withdrew from the presidency, accepting the office of vice-president. C. N. Arnett, of Montana, was named to succeed him.

Sales headquarters of the new organization will be in Room 105, Live Stock Exchange Building, Union Stock Yards, Denver, formerly the office of Hanks Bros. & Ratcliff Commission Company, whose business the Intermountain Live Stock Marketing Association has purchased, retaining F. E. Hanks as sales manager.

As a subsidiary of the marketing association, the Intermountain Live Stock Credit Corporation has been set up for the financing of members. Stock in the corporation will be offered at \$100 a share, and \$100,000 worth of stock will be sold. When that amount has been disposed of, the National Live Stock Marketing Association will subscribe an additional \$400,000, and the whole \$500,000 can then be deposited as collateral at the intermediate credit banks, making available a line of credit up to \$5,000,000. It is, however, not necessary to buy stock in order to become a member of the marketing association.

Louis Vinke is acting secretary of the credit corporation, and H. T. Bowen, of Denver, is treasurer. Offices will be at Room 402, Live Stock Exchange Building, Denver.

IOWA LIVE-STOCK FEEDERS JOIN CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

APPPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL Live Stock Marketing Association, submitted by the organized live-stock feeders of Iowa, under the name of the Iowa Live Stock Marketing Corporation, has been favorably acted upon by the national body. Representative producers from all parts of the state have been chosen to serve on the incorporation board.

Following a survey by the Federal Farm Board of some twenty counties in the eastern part of Iowa, one of the five proposed regional units of the new organization has already been set up and is ready to start operations.

BEET-GROWERS' ASSOCIATION FORMED

MEETING IN GREELEY, COLORADO, ON AUGUST 2, delegates representing seventeen sugar-beet-growing states took action toward the incorporation of a National Beet Growers' Association, under the terms of the Agricultural Marketing Act. Officers were elected as follows: Ralph Clark, Eaton, Colorado, president; Frank Thomas, Mitchell, Nebraska, first vice-president; J. W. Miller, Somers, Wisconsin, second vice-president; J. D. Pancake, Greeley, Colorado, secretary; and J. H. Stockwell, Bayard, Nebraska, treasurer. Offices will be maintained at Greeley and Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

WYOMING REPRESENTED ON FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION

APPPOINTMENT OF CLAUDE L. DRAPER, CHAIRMAN of the Public Service Commission of Wyoming, to membership on the Federal Power Commission will be received by residents of this section with gratification. Mr. Draper's intimate knowledge of the problems of the West and his record in his present office are a guarantee of efficient service in his new position.

The Federal Power Commission, which has general administrative control over the power sites on the navigable waters and public lands of the United States, has recently been reorganized. Instead of the Secretaries of War, the Interior, and Agriculture, who have heretofore composed its membership, it will henceforth form an independent body to consist of five members.

DROUGHT LEVIES HEAVY TOLL ON CORN CROP

RAVAGES OF THE DROUGHT AND EXCESSIVE HEAT that scorched the Middle West, and parts of the South and Northwest, throughout July caused a decline in the corn forecast of 21 per cent from the first of the month for the country as a whole, and in many sections resulted in almost total failure of that important crop. Nor was corn alone to suffer. In the wide belt affected, other spring-planted cereals, potatoes, cotton, tobacco—in fact, every crop left unharvested when the dry spell began—were damaged. The condition of pastures in the worst-hit regions is reported to be the poorest in more than fifty years.

Since the beginning of August, showers have fallen locally, but have been too late to afford much relief, except to grass.

Some increase was recorded in the estimated production

of winter wheat, already garnered. All other crops show reductions from the previously published figures, as seen from the following table, giving the government's analysis of the principal cereal and fodder crops as of August 1, compared with that of July 1:

	Aug. 1, 1930	July 1, 1930
Winter wheat (bu.)..	597,000,000	558,000,000
Spring wheat (bu.)..	224,000,000	250,000,000
All wheat (bu.)....	821,000,000	808,000,000
Corn (bu.)	2,212,000,000	2,802,000,000
Oats (bu.)	1,316,000,000	1,329,000,000
Barley (bu.)	306,000,000	332,000,000
Rye (bu.)	46,700,000	47,900,000
Potatoes (bu.)	373,000,000	398,000,000
Hay, tame (tons)....	83,500,000	85,400,000
Hay, wild (tons)....	11,900,000	13,600,000
Cotton (bales).....		14,362,000

WIRES IN CATTLEHIDES

TANNERS OF CATTLEHIDES HAVE FOR SOME TIME been complaining of long wires found in the hides shipped to them. These wires, of copper or brass, are located in the head and shoulder portions, and are presumed to be used for attaching identification tags. In some sections they are referred to as "hog rings."

The wires are very destructive to tanning machinery. Besides, they leave an indelible stain in the hide, which considerably lowers the value of the leather. While an endeavor is made to remove them before tanning, they are often difficult to discover, especially in long-haired hides.

THE PRODUCER would appeal to shippers as far as possible to remove these wires before marketing their cattle, and thus save tanners an unnecessary loss.

THE CALENDAR

- September 8-20, 1930—Inter-American Conference on Agriculture, Forestry, and Animal Industry, Washington, D. C.
- September 11-14, 1930—Nevada State Live Stock Show, Elko, Nev.
- September 29-October 5, 1930—Dairy Cattle Congress and National Belgian Horse Show, Waterloo, Iowa.
- October 11-19, 1930—National Dairy Show, St. Louis, Mo.
- October 20-21, 1930—Annual Convention of Institute of American Meat Packers, Chicago, Ill.
- October 22, 1930—Conference of Major Industries, Chicago, Ill.
- October 25-November 1, 1930—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
- October 31-November 7, 1930—Ak-Sar-Ben Stock Show, Omaha, Neb.
- November 6-8, 1930—Annual Convention of National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation, Des Moines, Iowa.
- November 10-13, 1930—Kansas National Live Stock Show, Wichita, Kan.
- November 12-13, 1930—Annual Convention of California Wool Growers' Association, San Francisco, Cal.
- November 15-22, 1930—American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City, Mo.
- November 28-December 6, 1930—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
- November 29-December 6, 1930—Christmas Live Stock Show, Los Angeles, Cal.
- December 12-13, 1930—Annual Convention of California Cattle-men's Association and Western Cattle Marketing Association, San Francisco, Cal.
- January 17-24, 1931—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.
- March 7-15, 1931—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.
- March 17-19, 1931—Annual Convention of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, Corpus Christi, Tex.

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CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING

IN A RECENT SPEECH, CHAIRMAN LEGGE, of the Federal Farm Board, calls attention to the difficulty in getting agricultural leaders to unite on a program that will go the farthest in solving their problems. He states:

One of the most difficult surpluses we find in the situation is the surplus of leaders or managers of groups that have in the past attempted to solve the problem along different lines. While each particular program may have merit, it is necessary to centralize co-operative activities to get effective results, and these differences should be ironed out, so that all groups would be working to the same general end.

The above quotation explains the difficulty experienced in organizing the live-stock industry under the Agricultural Marketing Act. While it is a matter of deep regret that, in spite of the long time that has elapsed, the two outstanding groups already organized have failed to get together, in one respect at least the delay has been fortunate. The National Live Stock Marketing Association did not actually begin functioning until August 1. Hence it will be very difficult for its enemies, no matter how careless in their handling of facts, to blame it for the decline in the live-stock markets, as was done in the case of wheat.

To the information that THE PRODUCER has carried to its readers relative to the organization of the

National Live Stock Marketing Association and the Texas Live Stock Marketing Association can now be added the announcement that the Intermountain Live Stock Marketing Association began operations on the Denver market September 1. This leaves only the extreme northwestern part of the range producing area unorganized.

Few of our readers realize the extent to which the range states have lagged behind in the matter of co-operative organization. Outside of the Western Cattle Marketing Association, no serious attempt in co-operative marketing has been made by range men since the organization of the short-lived Co-operative Live Stock Commission Company in 1906. In the East and Middle West, rapid strides have been made in recent years, so that the total volume of live stock handled co-operatively in 1929 amounted to \$300,000,000. With the formation of the associations referred to above, and also a new regional in Iowa, the National Live Stock Marketing Association now has organizations scattered pretty well over the entire country, from Texas to Detroit and from California to Buffalo, with selling agencies at all but one or two of the principal markets. These will doubtless be added in the near future.

The credit facilities offered as an adjunct to the marketing service will be of material benefit to thousands of producers. No attempt is being made to do away with present facilities, the aim being rather to supplement these where needed.

Now that the program is well under way, keen interest will be shown in the results obtained. THE PRODUCER believes that such an organization, with efficient management in the Chicago offices, from which market information will be disseminated each day, and with the firm support of the Federal Farm Board at Washington, cannot help but be a tower of strength to the industry.

RELIEVING THE DROUGHT EMERGENCY

WITH RELIEF FROM THE DROUGHT through abundant rains over the Middle West during the latter half of the past month came the inevitable reports that conditions have not been so bad as at first feared. This reaction always follows on the heels of any calamity. Stunned by a blow, people momentarily are inclined to exaggerate the injury. When the acuteness of the pain vanishes, the human capacity for making the best of a bad situation asserts itself, and with a grin it is acknowledged that things might have been worse.

Nevertheless, the damage done is quite bad enough. Throughout a belt stretching half-way across the waist-line of the country from the Atlantic Ocean,

taking in the southern half of the Corn Belt, and extending south along the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico and northwest into Wyoming and Montana, there is hardly a county but has felt the blight. Corn "fired" and failed to develop a kernel; grass withered in the pastures; reserve fodder, held for winter use, was fed to live stock to keep it alive; streams and wells dried up; even humans suffered for lack of water.

What the effect would be, should the emaciated animals arrive in numbers at the market a little later, to swell the normal flow of grass cattle from the range states at this season, can only be conjectured. Anxiety is felt lest prices, which lately have shown such encouraging recovery, would not be able to stand up under the strain. An adjustment is, of course, taking place right now, in that stock is being shifted from the worst-affected area to regions that were less hard hit, in the hope of avoiding the necessity of liquidating at ruinous prices. The extent of this movement it is as yet impossible to gauge; but with the improvement in the weather, and in view of the present upturn in the market, probably it will not be so great as anticipated.

In connection with the market situation, it is perhaps pertinent here to call attention to the fact that the American National Live Stock Association has urged that cattle be held back wherever possible, in order to reduce supplies, and thus give packers a chance to clean up their surplus stocks. The present price "come-back" undoubtedly in some degree is traceable to that policy, and we would warn against the danger of upsetting the advantage at this juncture by shipments that are not made absolutely necessary by economic conditions.

Full credit should be given to the railroads for the manner in which they have responded to the emergency. Following an order issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission, authorizing the transportation companies to lower rates on live stock and feed in and out of the drought-stricken area by 50 per cent, prompt action was taken by the carriers. Half-rates in the territory north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi were announced on August 12, and on August 22 a schedule of two-thirds the regular rates was granted by all roads operating between Chicago and the Pacific coast, to last until October 31. These rates, it need not be pointed out, mean a material loss to the roads—at a time, too, when their income has been seriously reduced through the general business depression.

Naturally, our President—who has had, perhaps, more practical experience in relieving human distress, on a national scale, than any other living man—has not remained idle. A conference of governors from

afflicted states was called at Washington last month, where the situation was thoroughly analyzed. A federal commission, headed by Secretary of Agriculture Hyde and including Chairman Legge, of the Farm Board, in its membership, was appointed by Mr. Hoover to co-operate with state organizations and local relief committees. The first step will be a meeting of bankers to co-ordinate credit facilities. In the opinion of the President, the most acute phase of the distress will not become manifest until winter, but it is hoped, by setting this machinery in motion, to ward off much suffering. It is possible, too, that Congress will be appealed to for aid at its next session.

PRICE SPREADS

MUCH ATTENTION HAS BEEN PAID RE-
cently to the excessive distribution costs built up during the period of apparently good times prior to the stock-market collapse. In these matters, it seems to be much easier to go up than to come down. The inevitable readjustment, not only in meats, but in many other lines, is being made slowly, and in some places grudgingly. Those retailers who have sufficient vision will recognize the new order of things and the restricted buying power of the public, reduce their prices to a proper level, and profit by an increased volume; the others will stick to the same old scale, and cite the fact that they are not making any money as justification thereof.

Following the campaign launched in Denver by the American National Live Stock Association for lower meat prices, similar movements have been started at various points in the West. While some difficulties have been encountered, on the whole the main purpose has been accomplished—namely, advising the consumer that, under existing market conditions, beef *should be* within the reach of all. Everything possible is being done to get the retailer to reduce his prices; but the consumer, properly informed, is in the best position to force the desired result. In California, representatives of the California Cattlemen's Association, the packers, and the retailers are holding joint meetings, and it is hoped a satisfactory solution of the problem will soon be reached there. Clippings received at the office of THE PRODUCER from one-third of the states of the Union show that communities in widely separated regions have followed the lead of the American National in insisting on fair meat prices, with retailers, more or less reluctantly, falling into line.

It all goes to show more forcibly than ever that the producer of any commodity cannot rest with the sale of his product to a processor—he must help to see that it is properly distributed. In Denver the

average retail price of bread on June 15, 1930, was 7.6 cents per loaf—exactly the same as on June 15, 1929. The average retail price of milk on June 15, 1930, was 11.3 cents per quart, compared with 12 cents a year earlier, although butter declined from 49.1 cents per pound to 37.6 cents in the same period.

At the recent convention of the National Bakers' Association it was resolved to urge the public to consume more bread as one means of solving the wheat-surplus problem, and attention was called to the fact that annual consumption per capita had declined from 5.3 to 4.26 bushels. They failed to recommend the only thing that would do any good—lower retail prices. According to a recent release of Chairman Legge, of the Federal Farm Board, the producer, railroad company, and miller get only 39 cents of every dollar paid by the consumer for bread. The other 61 cents goes to the baker and the distributor.

It is high time that producers, through their organizations, demand that the consumer be given value received for the money he pays for processed agricultural products. No permanent solution of the farm problem will be reached until unnecessary handlers and excessive distribution costs are eliminated from our marketing system, and until the producer gets a larger portion of the consumer's dollar than he now does.

PACKERS TO MATCH TWENTY-FIVE-CENT ASSESSMENT

PACKERS HAVE AGREED TO DUPLICATE the increased assessment on live stock. At its meeting in Chicago on August 8, 1930, the executive committee of the Institute of American Meat Packers decided to recommend to members of the institute that they join in promoting the plan for expanding the work of the National Live Stock and Meat Board by contributing 25 cents a car on all live stock bought by them, to be added to the 25 cents paid direct by the shipper. The recommendation reads as follows:

Bearing in mind that its functions are advisory, the executive committee will recommend to the institute members that, beginning November 1, 1930, and subject to reconsideration at the end of each year, they match the 25-cents-per-car contribution to the National Live Stock and Meat Board, provided that—

1. Practically all packers and producers pay on all live stock marketed, whether through the central market commission agencies, co-operative marketing selling agencies, direct selling, or otherwise; and that all commission agents and co-operative selling agencies make the collection at all markets where they are functioning on all live stock.
2. If a producer or his agent declines to contribute on live stock sold, the packer purchasing this live stock will deduct an amount pro rata from his contribution.
3. The National Live Stock and Meat Board will notify growers, and the various live-stock associations, the live-stock

exchanges, and the co-operative associations will notify all their members, that on and after November 1, 1930, deductions from the proceeds of the sales of live stock will be made by the exchanges, co-operatives, or packers, as the case may require, for payment to the board on the following basis: one-third cent for each hog, one-third cent for each calf, or one-fifth cent for each lamb, if marketed in less-than-carload lots; 1 cent for each head of cattle if marketed in less-than-carload lots; 25 cents a car if marketed in carload lots.

4. It is understood that the board and the producers generally will render all assistance possible to induce favorable consideration by all packers.

This is the action for which producers have been waiting, and which will meet with their hearty appreciation. If it is ratified by the convention of the Institute of American Meat Packers to be held at Chicago on October 20-21 (which we have no doubt that it will be), the augmented funds for the Meat Board voted by western live-stock organizations during the past winter and spring will become a fact. The co-operation of the old-line commission firms is assured through the resolution adopted at the Denver meeting of the National Live Stock Exchange in July, which was printed in the August PRODUCER. Agreement on the part of co-operative marketing agencies should be a matter of course.

It is, of course, essential that as many as possible come in on this program. The object is the stimulation of an interest in meat on the part of consumers through a nation-wide educational movement that would include housewives as well as dealers—a work which has been ably begun by the Meat Board, but which could with profit be materially expanded, if ample funds were available. From a broadening of the demand for meat every producer will benefit, whether a member of a live-stock association or not. We trust that every one of our readers will recognize the importance of this movement, and do what he can to further it.

The same applies to the packers. The wider the acceptance of the plan, the more certain the results. In these days of universal advertising appeal, the food forming the basis of our national diet cannot continue to hold its own against all competitors unless it, too, places its merits constantly before the public. If the meat-producer does not hold up his head and proudly assert himself with the best and the rest of them, the housewife in time will come to question the unquestionable, "fall for" the substitute fad, and gradually be weaned away from the path of her youth and the creed of her foremothers.

Now that the necessity of maintaining our nation's "meat-consciousness" has been accepted in principle by all branches of the industry, and the amount of the contribution of producer and packer has been allotted, let us insure the best possible outcome through the nearest possible approach to unanimity.

THE PRICE OF PROTECTION

IN AN ARTICLE IN THE *NATIONAL WOOL Grower* for July, S. W. McClure questions the devotion of THE PRODUCER to the principle of protection. The reference is to the editorial, "What Price 'Protection'?" in our issue for that month. From the same paragraph, however, in which doubt is thrown on our enthusiasm for high tariffs the reader is left to infer that we do not regard the present rates on cattle and their products as high enough.

Without attempting to reconcile these two interpretations of our attitude, we shall briefly try to make our position clear.

As we have repeatedly stated before, we consider the new rates on cattle and beef, as well as on all other classes of live stock and their products, on the whole quite satisfactory. Although in some instances they fall short of what producers demanded, we readily concede that, standing by themselves, they are a vast improvement over previous rates and offer a substantial degree of real protection.

The one conspicuous exception to this general rule is, of course, hides.

If things had been left there, everybody raising live stock should have been reasonably content. But things were not left there. In spite of the fact that the extra session of Congress was expressly called for the purpose of dealing with an agricultural emergency, when it came to revising the tariff to help out the farmer, everybody came running to stick his finger into the pie. As a consequence, what was intended as a measure for adjusting inequalities between agriculture and industry turned out to be the means of leaving these inequalities practically undis-

turbed, with depressed agriculture in much the same relative position as before.

Another problem that must not be overlooked is the possible effect on our foreign trade of an all-around rate "boost." A certain amount of resentment on the part of nations hit by hostile tariff legislation in countries on whose trade they depend is to be expected. In this instance the number and bitterness of complaints have been formidable.

It may well be that threats of reprisals will not materialize to an extent which will really hurt our pocketbook much in the long run. Storms of this nature have a way of blowing themselves out. Nevertheless, the atmosphere at this moment is charged with electricity. And even a few sporadic outbursts will not tend to sweeten the milk of human kindness without which no nation that is not wholly self-contained can long subsist in peace and plenty. The recent elections in Canada turned largely on the question of protection, and were lost by the party opposed to retaliatory measures aimed at the United States. In a dozen countries of Europe and South America, duties are being advanced with a view to hindering or preventing imports of which the United States has been the principal supplier. Under the diplomatic cloak of fostering home industries is concealed a large amount of ill-will, from which, if actualities should measure up to intentions, we cannot but lose in many ways. Commercially, our friends are lamentably few in number. With everybody owing us money, we are placing ourselves in the light of deliberately making it difficult, if not impossible, for our debtors to pay us back.

It was considerations such as these which made THE PRODUCER ask the question how gains and losses from our recent tariff legislation were to be distributed. We only hinted at elements in the situation which we did not deem it wise to ignore.

With the principle of protection, as such, we have no quarrel. That problem, in this country at least, has passed out of the realm of practical discussion—it has settled itself.

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*Right now we have some good
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WYOMING HEREFORD RANCH

Cheyenne, Wyoming

CORN-BORER VICTIM OF DROUGHT

REPORTS REACHING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE indicate that the European corn-borer has been among the sufferers from the weather, the heat and drought combined having destroyed large quantities of eggs. As a consequence, a material reduction in the number of borers this fall is anticipated.

However, the department entomologists caution against leaving too much to nature. Mechanical efforts previously recommended for controlling the pest should be continued. Among these, cutting of the cornstalks at the surface level is one of the most effective. High stubble remaining in the field provides a harboring place for a sufficient number of larvae to increase infestation the following year.

THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

PRODUCERS SHOULD GET BEHIND CO-OPERATIVE PLAN

MARFA, TEX., August 8, 1930.

TO THE PRODUCER:

At this time, when disaster threatens our business as never before, it is imperative that every ranchman decide definitely whether he favors co-operative marketing as offered by the Hoover administration through the Farm Board. The situation demands prompt and decisive action.

That President Hoover has exerted special effort toward helping the agricultural interests, none can deny. He has probably gone farther in extending a helping hand to the farmer and ranchman than any of his predecessors.

We have been assured that the entire force of the Hoover administration is behind the movement and will back it to the utmost power. In selecting men to place at the head of the Farm Board, the administration has chosen individuals who not only are of high character and outstanding reputation, but who are especially qualified and capable of fulfilling the duties incumbent upon them.

The Farm Board and the National Live Stock Marketing Association are organized and already functioning, leaving nothing for the producer to do but to accept and fall in line, in order to obtain the protection offered.

The problem for consideration is: Will the producer continue to sell in competition with his neighbors and the rest of the world; or will he follow the example practiced by other successful business concerns of co-operative marketing?

Will he continue operating his business in the dark, guessing at the value of the commodity; or will he sell through his own agency, which makes a special study of prices, and in this way establishes uniformity of price, eliminating to some extent the keen competition existing among neighbors?

Will he continue to ship his product without proper information, contributing to market gluts, so disastrous to his business; or will he take advantage of the plan for orderly marketing as proposed by the co-operatives?

Considering the fact that the President of these United States, together with the forces at his command, is supporting this movement, and in view of the depressed market conditions, are we not justified in expecting the producers to give their fullest co-operation?

Co-operative marketing of live stock is not an experiment. It is being operated successfully in the Dominion of Canada and in other parts of the world. The co-operative plan has been in operation in the State of California for the past five years, has proved highly satisfactory and profitable to that and adjoining states, and is continually growing in favor.

It is not to be expected that rules and regulations governing the organization can be made perfect to start with. The by-laws will be changed and amended from time to time, as necessity demands.

Doubtless there are some who will say: "We can't." But it is up to the man who says, "We can't," to suggest something better.

We read of a delegation of twelve men who were sent out to spy a foreign country, with the view of conquering it. On their return, as is often the case, they turned in majority and minority reports. Ten said: "We can't! Why, compared with the giants of that land, we are as helpless as grasshoppers." But two said: "We can." And they did. What is needed in putting over the Co-operative Marketing Plan is more Joshuas and Calebs—men who say: "We can."

New conditions are developing, and, in order to keep abreast of the times, we must free ourselves from the time-worn ruts of the past. Successful co-operation means that we must be followers—that we cannot all be leaders.

Evidently there is some opposition to the co-operative plan of marketing; but, when we hear such complaints made, it will be well to consider the position of the complainant, and ascertain if he is not profiting in some way as a middleman.

L. C. BRITE.

WASHINGTON ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF RESOLUTIONS

THE WHITE HOUSE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., August 26, 1930.

Mr. F. E. Mollin,
Secretary, American National Live Stock Association,
Denver, Colorado.

MY DEAR MR. MOLLIN:

Your letter of August 23, inclosing a copy of the resolutions adopted at a recent meeting of the executive committee of the American National Live Stock Association, and calling particular attention to the resolution regarding American-grown meat for the army and navy, has been received, and by direction of the President the matter is being brought to the attention of the officials of the War and Navy Departments.

FEEDER CALVES

5,000 to 10,000 good-grade Hereford calves, well grown and in good condition, in the vicinity of Deming, New Mexico.

The Mimbres Valley Bank, of Deming,
New Mexico, will answer inquiries.

The action of your committee in the matter of relief for the drought-stricken areas is appreciated, and the resolution relating to this is being brought to the attention of the Secretary of Agriculture, who is chairman of the national drought committee.

Sincerely yours,
 LAWRENCE RICHEY,
Secretary to the President.

* * *
 WAR DEPARTMENT,
 WASHINGTON, D. C., August 28, 1930.

Mr. F. E. Mollin,
*Secretary, American National Live Stock Association,
 Denver, Colorado.*

DEAR SIR:

In reply to your letter of August 15, 1930, inclosing a copy of resolutions adopted at a recent meeting of the executive committee of the American National Live Stock Association, and inviting attention to Resolution No. 8, to the effect that the American government should purchase only domestic meat for its own use, I beg to advise you, so far as the army is concerned, that in the purchase of food supplies the department is governed by the act of March 2, 1901 (31 Stats. 905), and by later acts of Congress, which require that such supplies shall be obtained where they can be had the cheapest, quality and cost of transportation and the interests of the government considered.

All fresh meats for the army in the continental United States are exclusively of domestic production. In the territorial possessions, foreign meats are usually cheaper, and the existing law prescribes their acceptance if they should be cheaper and meet specification requirements.

The government is now engaged in a study of the question of purchasing domestic meats for the army and navy in the Philippines, Hawaii, and Panama from the practical and economic viewpoints, in the event that legislation to that end should be enacted. The result of this study should be known within the near future.

Very truly yours,
 F. H. PAYNE,
Acting Secretary of War.

REINDEER MEAT

SEATTLE, WASH., August 16, 1930.

TO THE PRODUCER:

We are in receipt of a copy of the March, 1930, issue of THE PRODUCER wherein we find, on page 19, an article under the caption "Reindeer Meat." Apparently there are several matters pertaining to the reindeer industry and Alaska which are not quite clear to the author of that article.

First, Alaska is a part of the United States. As such, the tariff does not enter, so far as its commerce is concerned with other parts of the United States. Reindeer meat and fish are the only foodstuffs that Alaska ships to the States. The company that exports reindeer meat spends considerably more money each year for Colorado anthracite coal than it receives from the sale of its products within your fair state. We assume that the trade cannot be maintained at even balance, but surely an industry that patronizes your state should be permitted to offer its product in exchange.

The reindeer industry is one of the most interesting and promising in Alaska, but its potential limits are such that reindeer meat can never be more than a supplemental meat to

augment the declining meat supply of the United States. Perhaps when the industry has reached its peak—a generation from now—it will produce a little more than a pound per annum for each person in the United States.

Alaska is the last frontier under the Stars and Stripes. About thirty thousand adventurers, largely from the western part of the United States, are endeavoring to build an empire nearly one-fifth the size of the United States proper. Give the boys a hand! We have no quarrel with Colorado or the cattlemen of the West. In fact, we are attempting to emulate those who built up the glorious West. The reindeer industry has no precedent to follow, except those established by the cattle industry.

The day of the walled city has gone. Large business institutions of Denver and other western cities are advertising for business, and competing with their neighbors in securing it.

Alaska imports far more beef, pork, and mutton, in pounds or dollars, than her reindeer exportations. The Alaska press has not taken up a cry against your products; so why not let us be good neighbors and play the game two ways?

The reindeer man is a producer. The American National Live Stock Association does not discriminate between Colorado, Nebraska, California, or any other state of the Union. Why pick on Alaska, from which some day we will carve the forty-ninth, fiftieth, and perhaps several more states?

RALPH LOMEN,
Vice-President, Lomen Reindeer Corporation.

* * *

[THE PRODUCER is not particularly a Colorado paper. It is published in Denver by reason of the fact that the American National Live Stock Association has its headquarters here, but it represents the cattlemen throughout all the western half of the United States.

For seven or eight years after the war the stockmen of the West were engaged in a life-and-death struggle to save themselves from financial ruin. After a temporary upswing, they are now again back in the slough, fighting desperately to maintain their hold on a slipping market. Under these circumstances, it is but natural that they should look askance at efforts to take advantage of the situation by making their position even more precarious. Against the outsider they have the tariff weapon. With the man in their own camp there is little they can do except to appeal to his loyalty.

It is a question of compelling a fundamental industry, laboriously built up by a pioneer people, in a country that offers scant opportunity for other means of livelihood, to meet in competition a product from a new territory within our own confines, artificially fostered by government aid, under conditions that render the initial expense of the acquisition relatively insignificant, and the cost of maintenance next to nothing.

The reindeer herds of Alaska were established for the primary purpose of securing a meat supply for the Eskimos. That purpose is now being forced into the background. So easy and cheap have been the methods of production that the temptation to enter the business on a speculative scale has proved too much for certain white "adventurers." Reindeer meat in increasing quantities has for some time been entering the United States market, not as a rare delicacy for the epicure, but in direct competition with our home-raised beef, which it is underselling.

It appears that the possibilities for growth of the reindeer industry are limited only by the extent of free feed. Mr. Lomen estimates that the potential export of one pound of reindeer meat a year for each inhabitant of the United States a generation from now represents that limit. This he does not consider a matter of much importance. Measured by our total meat production, perhaps it is not. Nevertheless, 150,000,000 pounds of beef displaced, in periods of depression, would mean something to the cattleman. Our "declining meat supply," which Mr. Lomen's company is aiming to "augment," is declining only because the price obtainable for live stock in too many instances does not cover cost of production. Assured of a living profit, the West is capable of supplying all the nation's meat needs indefinitely.—EDITOR.]



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TO YOU
the **DAY** they **Go!**

EMPTY RAILS...running from your town direct to market
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always ready to carry your cattle away...it's up to you
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better pounds...they're the things that count...they're
the things that make your cattle ready to ship when the
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Purina Steer Fatena...the handy feed that's made in two
ways...cubes for the range...meal for the feedlot!

Among the good things in Purina Steer Fatena are
cottonseed...linseed...molasses...three real cattle feeds
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feed that puts your cattle in marketing shape...so you can
take advantage of the market when the market's right!



THE PURINA POUND IS THE CHEAPEST



WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

PROGRESS OF TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION

MICHIGAN IS THE THIRD OF THE STATES TO clean up its bovine tuberculosis, every one of its eighty-three counties having been placed in the "modified accredited" column—which means that no herds show more than one-half of 1 per cent reactors. The two states previously accredited are North Carolina and Maine.

The work of eradicating this disease is constantly going forward, upward of a million cattle being tested each month. A total of 27,692,306 head—or nearly half the cattle population of the United States—were under supervision on July 1. Of these, 20,983,869 showed no symptoms of tuberculosis after one test.

Indiana, with eighty accredited counties, should be the next state to be heard from. Iowa has fifty-four such counties, Wisconsin fifty-four, Ohio fifty-three, and Kansas fifty.

LIVE STOCK ON NATIONAL FORESTS

DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1929 THERE WAS a slight decrease in the number of cattle and horses grazed on national forests, and a corresponding decline in permits issued, compared with the previous year, while a substantially larger number of sheep and goats was grazed, with a similar increase in permits.

In twelve western states the number of animals grazed last year was as below, according to statistics issued by the Forest Service:

	Cattle and Horses	Sheep and Goats
Arizona	196,089	332,367
California	156,255	433,748
Colorado	286,710	1,077,979
Idaho	134,978	1,380,980
Montana	135,647	613,682
Nevada	51,686	313,534
New Mexico	93,137	256,220
Oregon	90,443	657,273
South Dakota	28,598	30,283
Utah	117,729	779,784
Washington	13,889	169,535
Wyoming	112,020	631,247
Total 1929	1,436,223	6,679,662
Total 1928	1,441,906	6,419,952

BIG GAME ON NATIONAL FORESTS

INCREASES IN ANTELOPES, DEER, ELK, MOUNTAIN goats, and grizzly bears (including the big Alaskan brown bear) on national forests during the calendar year 1929, and decreases in caribou, moose, mountain sheep, and black and brown bears, are recorded by the Forest Service. Some of the losses, notably in the case of bears, are due to revisions of previous estimates and incomplete reports, we are told. Especially gratifying is it to learn that antelopes are now more than holding their own.

Numbers of the various kinds of big-game animals on the forests in 1929 and 1928 follow:

	1929	1928
Antelopes	10,219	8,494
Black or brown bears	50,664	52,231
Grizzlies	3,507	3,447
Caribou	20	23
Deer	802,459	748,003
Elk	82,672	78,218
Moose	5,154	6,971
Mountain goats	21,050	19,298
Mountain sheep	12,328	13,824

NEW CHAIRMAN OF TARIFF COMMISSION

HENRY P. FLETCHER—A PENNSYLVANIAN WITH twenty years' experience in the diplomatic service, having been ambassador to Chile, Mexico, and Belgium, besides undersecretary of state—has been named by President Hoover to head the new Tariff Commission established by the Hawley-Smoot Act. Mr. Fletcher is a Republican. A Democrat has likewise been appointed, in the person of Thomas W. Page, of Virginia, once chairman of the commission.

The Tariff Commission, under its added powers, is depended upon by President Hoover to adjust any defects in the law. It is a bipartisan body, to be composed of three Republicans and three Democrats.

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OUR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

BY CHARLES F. BLAINE

Traffic Counsel, American National Live Stock Association

Court Decisions

THE APPELLATE DEPARTMENT OF THE SUPERIOR Court of Los Angeles County, in Cases Nos. C. A. 137 and C. A. 138, decided that the statute of limitations governing the filing of claims for overcharges on California intrastate traffic is three instead of two years. The California carriers, under a circular letter effective January 1, 1930, advised that all claims for overcharges on California intrastate traffic would be considered barred under the provisions of section 71, paragraph (b), of the Public Utilities Act of California, unless such claims were actually paid within two years from date of payment of the charges. The effect of these decisions is that the carriers had misinterpreted the statute.

In *McCoy v. Wabash Railway Co.*, 231 N. W. Rep. 353, the Supreme Court of Iowa held that, where shipment of live

stock was delivered to carrier in good condition and arrived at destination in damaged condition, and neither shipper nor representative accompanied animals, the burden of proof is upon the carrier to show it fully performed its duty and was free from negligence.

In *Chicago, Indianapolis & Louisville Railway Co. v. International Milling Co.*, I. C. C. A., No. 6635, the court held that a tariff for interstate commerce filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission, and published as required by the Interstate Commerce Act, established the legal rate, although it did not expressly cancel the previous tariff, in accordance with the ruling of the commission.

Decisions of Interstate Commerce Commission

In I. & S. Docket No. 3425, the Interstate Commerce Commission found not justified the proposed cancellation of commodity rates on hides, pelts, and skins, dry, carloads, from El Paso, Texas, and intermediate New Mexico points to Kansas City, St. Louis, and points east thereof. This move on the part of the Santa Fe Railway was well planned. It proposed

Intermountain Live Stock Marketing Association

Producer- and Feeder-Owned and Controlled

A COMPLETE MARKETING SERVICE

SALES AGENCY at Denver (formerly Hanks Bros. & Ratcliff Commission Co.)

SALES AGENCY to be established at Omaha

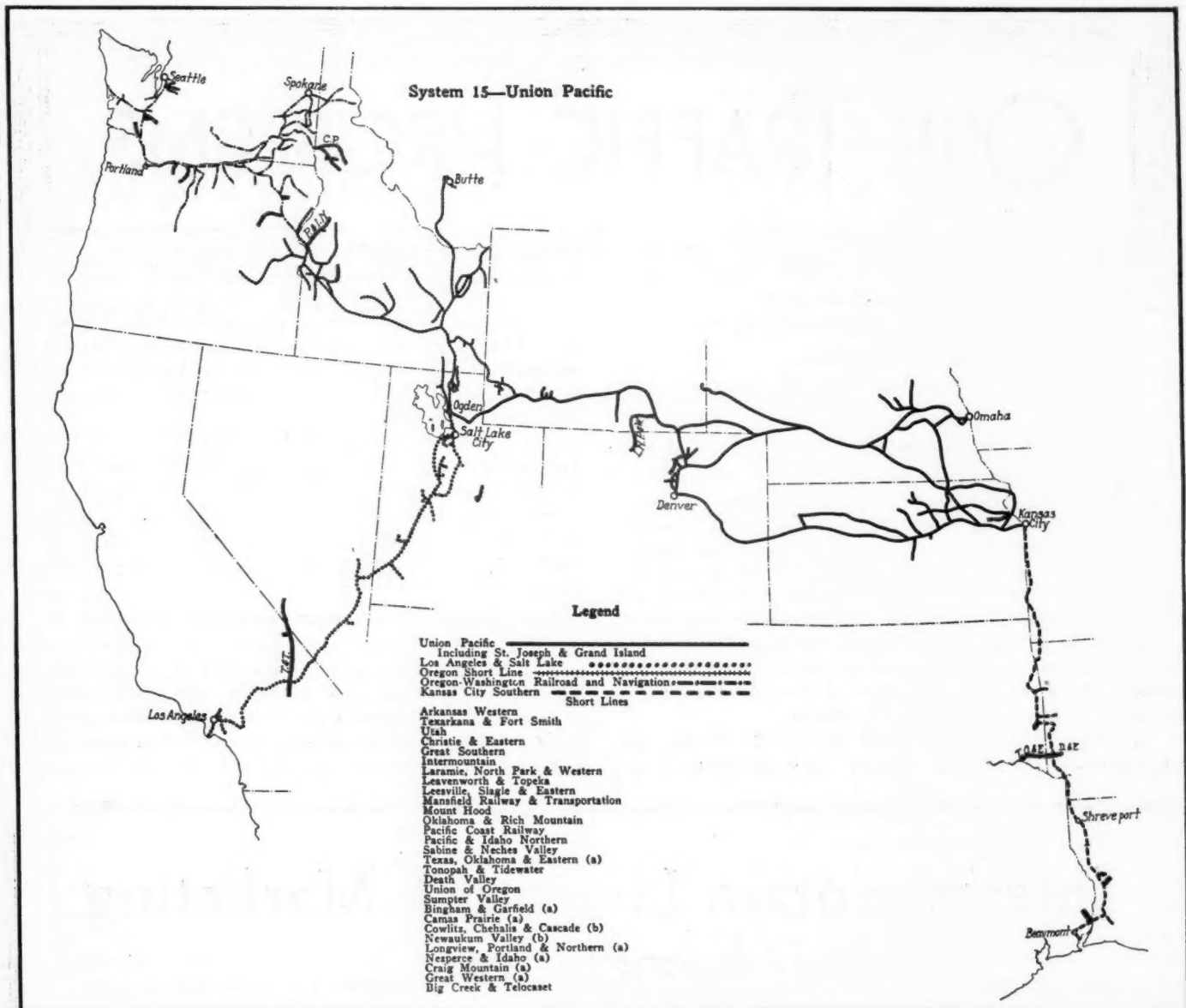
Direct Sales—Producer to Feeder

Intermountain Live Stock Credit Corporation

MARKETING CREDIT at 6 per cent

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General Offices: 401-402 Live Stock Exchange Building, Denver, Colorado



to withdraw from the rates applicable from El Paso which were held as maxima at intermediate points in New Mexico, in order that it might substantially increase the rates from New Mexico points to the same destinations. The increase would also have extended into and included practically all Arizona shipping points. This case was handled for the association by me.

In Docket No. 22330, *H. W. Cockerill et al. v. Santa Fe et al.*, Division 3 of the commission found that the rates on feeder cattle from points in Texas and Oklahoma to Richfield, Tekamah, and Gretna, Nebraska, were inapplicable, but not unreasonable or otherwise unlawful. Shipments from Justiceburg and Farwell, Texas, to Richfield, Nebraska, and from Gentry, Texas, to Gretna, Oklahoma, found overcharged. Reparation awarded.

In Docket No. 22635, *Edward Barnett Mule Co. et al. v. A. & W. et al.*, Division 3 of the commission found that the rates on horses and mules from points in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Montana, and Wyoming to the National Stock Yards, Illinois, were not unreasonable or otherwise unlawful. Complaint dismissed.

The commission in *I. & S. Dockets Nos. 3418-3421*, by

Division 3, has found justified, with exceptions, the proposed closing of routes embracing the Colorado & Southern and Fort Worth & Denver City Railways, on traffic from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, and New Mexico to destinations on the Orient division of the Panhandle & Santa Fe in Texas. The exceptions referred to cover live stock, potatoes, onions, and other perishable freight. Stated otherwise, the commission permitted the Santa Fe to restrict its routing on this traffic except on live stock and other perishable freight.

The commission has dismissed the complaint in Docket No. 22593, *C. B. Orlis et al. v. S. P. et al.*, finding the rates on hogs from South St. Paul, Minnesota, to Stockton, California, not unreasonable.

Western trunk-line railroads have notified the Interstate Commerce Commission that they intend to file a petition for rehearing and reconsideration of the western grain-rate case. Meanwhile they have asked that the date when the new rates, recently ordered, are to become effective be postponed from October 1 to January 1, contending that the short time allotted them is not sufficient for revision of their tariffs. This request has been granted.

Commission's Orders

The Interstate Commerce Commission has suspended every part of the Interstate Commerce Act, and its own rules and regulations, that might possibly cause delay on the part of the railroads in the publishing of rates on live stock, feed, and water to relieve conditions in the drought-stricken area. Under the permission, the railroads have authority to publish and charge reduced rates on live stock, feed, water, and other articles of traffic, as may be found necessary, without notice and without observing the long-and-short-haul part of the fourth section of the act, or provisions of Tariff Circular 20, which may interfere with the prompt establishment of emergency rates.

The commission has not the power to compel unwilling railroads to make any concessions in rates, but this permission authorizes those to do so that may so desire. In the several cases where the facts were presented to them, the railroads concerned have unhesitatingly published, or agreed to publish, reduced emergency rates.

Any member needing relief in this connection should promptly present the facts to the association and the nearest railroad official.

Railroads in Official Classification Territory have decided to reduce to one-half freight rates on hay, feed, and water into the drought-stricken area, and to make like rates on animals out of such sections. Western carriers have decided to take similar action, but the details have not yet been completed.

Great Northern-Northern Pacific Consolidation

Objections to the proposed consolidation of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railway Companies, to be hereafter known as the Great Northern Pacific, which consolidation was permitted by the commission in Finance Dockets Nos. 6409 and 6410, are increasing. The Idaho, South Dakota, and Nebraska state commissions have filed petitions with the Interstate Commerce Commission, joining the various other parties previously reported, requesting the commission for a reopening and further hearing in this case.

Commission Appointments

Charles D. Mahaffie, director of the commission's Bureau of Finance since May, 1922, has been appointed Interstate Commerce Commission commissioner, to succeed Commissioner Woodlock, who has resigned. The new appointment is to become effective September 1, 1930, but is subject to approval by Congress.

Oliver E. Sweet, of South Dakota, assistant general solicitor of the Bureau of Valuation of the Interstate Commerce Commission was promoted to be director of the Bureau of Finance, to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of Mr. Mahaffie as commissioner.

RAILWAY CONSOLIDATION

SYSTEM 15—UNION PACIFIC—THE FOURTH IN THE series of maps of proposed railroad consolidations of concern to the West—is shown on the opposite page. The Union Pacific lines have their starting-point at Omaha and Kansas City, and run as far west as Ogden. In Utah they connect with the Los Angeles & Salt Lake, striking southwest, and the Oregon Short Line, running northwest into Oregon and north to Butte, Montana. The latter line again joins the Oregon-Washington, running to Portland, Spokane, Tacoma, and Seattle. This whole system, with a number of shorter lines, it is proposed by the Interstate Commerce Commission to merge into one group.

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REDUCED FARES ALL TRANSPORTATION
LINES

THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN AUGUST

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., September 1, 1930.

AT LEAST A MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE WAS INJECTED into a semi-panicky cattle industry at mid-August, when the end of a prolonged period of demoralization was reached. Almost overnight a radical change occurred. Something happened at that juncture that was wholly unheralded. For one thing, the beef market picked up, although just why it did so has not been satisfactorily explained, as no perceptible improvement in the industrial situation could be detected. Possibly relief from the long glut of overweight steers exerted a recuperative influence, and the fact that killers did not get a seasonal supply of western grass beef helped. Doubtless a number of factors were responsible for the change, which came at a moment when long-deferred hope was apparently doomed not to reach the fruition stage. Within two weeks fat cattle advanced anywhere from \$2 to \$3 per cwt., a continuous appreciation for fifteen consecutive days without a setback having scant, if any, precedent. For several days the trade was suspicious, but when buyers went afield day after day, cleaning up the available supply before noon, and putting on 25 to 50 cents without even a semblance of resistance, the fact was realized that the cattle-feeder was out of the woods—temporarily, at least.

Cattle-Market Demoralization Changes Overnight

Earlier in the month the market was completely demoralized, plenty of heavy steers selling at \$8.50 to \$9.25, with \$9.50 out on the limb for the best bullocks that ever walked.

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Denver, Colorado

Yearlings could always be sold, although the excess supply of heavy steers pulled them down; but once revival started, big cattle suddenly became scarce, the \$9.50 kind at the low time jumping to \$12.35. One peculiarity of this bulge was that everything wearing a hide participated. During the demoralized period previously killers bought common steers as low as \$4.50, and a raft of grassers and merely warmed-up cattle at \$5 to \$7.50; on the upturn, nothing was quoted below \$6, the \$5 to \$7.50 kinds going to \$6.75 to \$10.75, and steers worth \$8.50 to \$10 when the bargain sale was in progress being marked up to \$10.75 to \$11.75. All of which goes to show that nothing can move in one direction continuously; also, that every lane has a turn.

Distributive Channels Glutted Early in Month

Early in August buyers made an overplay, as they have a habit of doing in such emergencies. The thing was going their way, and they forced their hands to the limit, incidentally dislodging a considerable number of cattle prematurely, tired owners jettisoning them by the thousand. During this period the dressed market was gorged with cheap beef, killers literally forcing it into distributive channels at whatever price it would bring. It was a veritable debacle. Probably distributors, wholesale and retail, made a financial clean-up; certainly the ultimate consumer benefited little, as "constant" prices were maintained.

Few Grassers Arriving

The advance changed feeders' psychology. Assured that the worst was over, they ceased pestering marketmen for advice, going to the other extreme, as, when commission houses urged customers to load after an advance of more than a dollar, response was scant, the majority deciding to stay with their cattle a while longer. When the market had advanced \$2 to \$3 per cwt., the movement swelled, the last round of the final week of August developing 25- to 50-cent declines in intermediate grades, which had worked out of line with choice cattle in a daily scramble to fill orders. Few western grassers reported during the upturn, and, as the old-style native red steer has become obsolete, killers had difficulty in replenishing coolers. Feeders came out of obscurity, bidding on fleshy two-way steers and forcing up prices on killers, who were compelled to go the limit to get sufficient beef to take care of their trade.

Heavy Steers Selling on a Par with Yearlings

Coincident with the upturn, heavy cattle, which had been the underdogs of the market for a prolonged period, went to a parity with yearlings. Unable to get enough of the types of steers selling at \$11.50 to \$12.25 on the rise, killers went to cheaper grades, boosting prices until anything under \$9.50 was on the grass order. After two weeks of boom, buyers addressed themselves to the task of readjusting the price-list, looking for weak spots on which to use their battering-ram; but a week elapsed before they made headway. Any kind of steer with a little weight got action at the peak of the rise, pulling many a feeder out of a financial hole from which extrication appeared impossible thirty days previously. Had anyone forecast what happened during the latter half of August even a few hours before the upturn developed, ridicule would have been his reward. In cattle annals, replete with pyrotechnics, this will be a red-letter chapter.

Females Share in Appreciation

Cattle, other than steers, followed the appreciation. Heavy cows, previously a drag, got action, canners and cutters were marked up a dollar, and the heifer market went on a rampage,

not only the yearling type, but grass butcher heifers, gaining \$1 to \$1.50 per cwt. Killers on a limited scale set the purchasing pace, making new tops on several occasions, and eastern shippers were frequently unable to fill their orders. An apparent, if not real, cattle surplus disappeared so suddenly as to confound every scrap of philosophy previously in circulation.

Hogs Join Procession

Hogs joined the procession. A somnolent fresh-pork market during the hot spell suddenly became receptive, packers' coolers were depleted of frozen loins, fresh meats advanced \$4 per cwt., and cured product became popular with distributors. Top hogs almost reached the \$12 goal before a logical reaction developed on the last round of the month. Discrediting official pronouncement that Europe would be a sparing buyer of our lard and meats, both were taken in increasing quantities; speculators entered the futures market, taking both lard and meats; and packers, instead of hedging product, actually took on long lines. As in the case of cattle, the country curtailed supply, the old crop of heavy hogs ran out, and the summer run of packing sows tapered off. Packers, unable to buy their full quota of hogs in the country, were under the necessity of coming into the market, competing with shippers and small local packers, and putting a stout prop under the price-list. The country dumped few grassy hogs at this juncture, thus exerting a stabilizing influence, and, violating precedent, no gob of drought-distress shoters showed up, stock pigs going to a premium in the country. These conditions were in striking contrast to what happened at the corresponding period in 1929, when August and September brought in a run of overweight barrows that kicked the whole price structure over.

Advance in Lambs Only Temporary

Even the live-mutton market enjoyed a temporary uplift, but it did not endure. An appreciation of \$1.50 per cwt. at the middle of the month vanished before the close, when top lambs sold down from \$10.65 to \$9.25, and killers sorted so drastically as actually to mean even more decline than the figures indicated. Thin western or feeding lambs went from \$6 to \$6.25 early in August to \$7.50 to \$8, reacting to \$7.25 to \$7.75, as, the moment threshing energy subsided and the drought was broken, a mob of feeders appeared at the market in purchasing mood, relieving killers of responsibility for clearing both ends of the crop. The mid-month advance stimulated loading in the Northwest, relieved temporary scarcity in the dressed market, and took off all that had been put on. No quarter was given by killers, who took advantage of every opportunity to depress cost, sorting so severely as to elicit protest. Fat sheep showed little change all through the month, ewes selling largely at \$3 to \$4 per cwt. Western ewes could not pay their way to market, and, for some reason or other, farm flock-owners did not dump native ewes, as the trade expected, probably holding them to come later, with their lambs.

STOCKER MARKET MORE ACTIVE

J. E. P.

RESPONSE BY THE STOCK-CATTLE MARKET TO the upturn in butcher stock about the middle of August was prompt. By the end of the month values were up \$1.50 to \$2 per cwt., and the country was in receptive mood. Previously deserted stocker alleys at the central markets became animated, even fleshy, or two-way, steers becoming popular. Sections of the Corn Belt, advertised as denuded of vegeta-

tion—notably Ohio and Indiana—entered the market, cleaning up the alleys daily, and keeping dealers on a still hunt for fresh supplies. The old-time midsummer run of native red steers was not available, and low prices held thin western cattle back, insuring hard picking for buyers. Revival of growth of aftermath on previously bare stubble-fields stimulated investment, a further incentive being conviction that the low spot had been passed. At that, the countryward movement was light, as the cattle necessary to expansion were not available. Kansas and Oklahoma pasture contents were held, and few cattle came from the Northwest, sales results of early shipments having been ruinous. The late August advance failed materially to swell the run, while orders accumulated in the hands of commission houses, discrediting reports of corn-crop calamity and feed shortage.

On the advance, western cattle sold mainly at \$6.50 to \$8 per cwt. on country account, only a handful of natives going below the former figure. High-qualified Montana yearlings went to \$9, with a sprinkling at \$8 to \$8.50; fleshy feeders going to feed-lots at \$8.50 to \$8.60, these being the types killers acquired around or under \$7 at the previous low time.

The course of the stock-cattle market during the rest of the replacement season will depend on action by the fat-cattle market meanwhile, corn-crop developments during the maturing period, and the disposition of western holders to cut loose. Possibly the latter may winter young cattle that would have gone to market had prices been more attractive, as they are in no mood to make sacrifices. The Northwest is short of young cattle, and present prices offer opportunity to restock at decidedly lower levels than at any time since 1926. Possibly the Farm Board may furnish money for cattle retention. In any event, the low point in stock-cattle values was uncov-

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ered during the fore part of August, thousands of feeders who need cattle in the worst way making an overplay at that stage, which amounted to cupidity and bad judgment. Possibly they were smarting under losses on fat cattle marketed during the June-to-August debacle, and had lost their sense of proportion; but they showed deficient judgment nevertheless, permitting opportunity to acquire a set of cheap cattle to slip by.

In the Southwest little had been done in the way of contracting cattle for fall delivery up to the end of August. Revival of fat-cattle trade started the market, but, as confidence in growing circles increased, prices were marked up. Speculative activity was almost entirely absent, although a few order-buyers appeared in north Texas actually booking a few cattle, mainly in small distressed herds. In the Northwest few cattle went to market, and nothing of any account was done locally.

Volume of stock-cattle trade will expand during September and October, with improbability of lower prices, as potential demand is broad. All kinds of steers will be wanted. Since last April replacement has been on a limited scale east of the Missouri River, reserve stocks are low, and even with an admittedly short corn crop a large number of thin western cattle will be needed to fill the hole, the probability being that feeders will be in the market for both light and fleshy two-way steers all winter. There is no corn surplus, but a short crop may be, and will be, economized to go a long way, and roughage is reasonably plentiful.

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THE DENVER MARKET

BY W. N. FULTON

DENVER, COLO., September 3, 1930.

FED YEARLING STEERS AND HEIFERS WERE SELLING on the Denver market 50 to 75 cents higher at the close of the month than at the end of the previous thirty-day period. About the same advance applied to medium-weight bullocks. Heavy-weights were almost entirely lacking from the market. Quotations early in August were mainly \$9 to \$9.85 for the yearlings, while at the close this stock was bringing from \$9.75 to \$10.55 for best kinds. Grass-fed steers closed mainly from \$8 down, although some exceeded this price. Grass heifers went fairly readily at \$8.75, and there were some sales over that.

Slumps occurred early in the month on the cow market, but prices recuperated, and then advanced until the stock was selling 50 cents higher at the close. Some heiferish consignments reached \$7 and slightly above, but the heavier grades of cows stopped at \$6.85, and the majority moved from \$6.75 down near the end of the month. Earlier sales were mostly at \$5.50 to \$6.25. Supplies of cows were liberal. The presence of shipper buyers helped materially to boost prices.

Veals declined 50 cents to \$1 in the month's trading. Early sales ranged to \$13, but on the close it required something really choice to reach the \$12 mark, and the bulk was going at \$11.50 down.

Feeders and stockers appeared in increasing numbers as the month advanced, and, in general, demand was good at 50 cents to \$1 higher values on most grades. The best steers and heifers are quoted to \$8 and slightly above, while early in the month \$7 was the practical upper limit. Calves moved to country buyers up to \$8.35 in load lots, and cows went mainly from \$4.50 down.

Hogs.—The better swine were selling on the early days up to \$9.90, with the bulk generally from \$9.25 to \$9.70. At the close, however, choice grades were absorbed freely at \$10 to \$11, while top butchers scaled \$11.15 to a season's top of \$11.25.

The month's trade was a satisfactory one, with all buying interests participating in the daily sessions. There was a good shippers' demand most of the time, but city butchers and big packers were the main factors throughout. While there is likely to be some fluctuation in hog prices throughout the next few weeks, in view of the fact that supplies are not excessive, it is expected that all classes of hogs will hold up well.

Sheep.—Early in August, choice Colorado lambs were selling at \$9, and the bulk of western rangers at \$8 to \$8.75, with less desirable kinds downward to \$7.50. Later in the month, choice 75-pound Colorado killers hit a top of \$10, and other western arrivals were numerous at \$9 to \$9.75. Near the close, however, with heavy receipts at all markets and sharp reductions recorded, best lambs were selling at \$8 to \$8.15, and plainer grades mostly under \$8.

Feeder lambs were not very plentiful during the early days, only a few consignments showing up, and these went out at \$6 to \$6.35. A strong outside demand for this class later in the period forced levels a trifle higher, and carloads went to country buyers at anywhere from \$6.60 to \$7. Many buyers appeared at this point for feeder lambs during the latter part of August, and the daily supply usually went out in rapid time.

Ewes met with brisk demand and were absorbed readily each market day. While most of the ewes went out at \$3 to \$3.50 for the better kinds, strictly choice ones were quotable at \$3.75 or higher at the close of the month.

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES SHOWING RECEIPTS, shipments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-five markets for the month of July, 1930, compared with July, 1929, and for the seven months ending July, 1930 and 1929:

RECEIPTS

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Cattle*	1,012,175	1,166,181	7,166,186	7,312,843
Calves	499,486	499,220	3,478,202	3,499,661
Hogs	2,917,560	3,297,159	24,475,765	26,153,802
Sheep	2,295,815	2,119,273	14,946,306	13,005,338

TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Cattle*	358,628	449,189	2,924,850	2,939,054
Calves	124,335	146,043	1,003,587	977,369
Hogs	1,139,207	1,201,596	9,455,376	9,667,314
Sheep	939,922	882,926	6,419,750	5,874,385

STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Cattle*	99,135	159,207	1,147,742	1,259,255
Calves	10,135	14,088	184,692	133,394
Hogs	29,950	38,472	326,804	389,006
Sheep	205,907	230,680	1,023,406	1,308,951

LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Cattle*	645,307	685,923	4,162,331	4,275,199
Calves	358,237	356,783	2,477,283	2,523,115
Hogs	1,782,389	2,092,246	15,015,715	16,463,476
Sheep	1,361,972	1,217,104	8,521,538	7,106,968

*Exclusive of calves.

†Including stockers and feeders.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF STORAGE HOLDINGS OF frozen and cured meats on August 1, 1930, as compared with August 1, 1929, and average holdings on that date for the last five years (in pounds):

Commodity	Aug. 1, 1930	Aug. 1, 1929	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef	46,020,000	31,085,000	23,802,000
Cured beef*	18,702,000	14,845,000	18,161,000
Lamb and mutton	4,470,000	2,639,000	1,757,000
Frozen pork	157,842,000	229,397,000	190,951,000
Dry salt pork*	114,477,000	172,308,000	171,191,000
Pickled pork*	379,732,000	412,649,000	395,261,000
Miscellaneous	89,731,000	81,068,000	67,611,000
Totals	810,974,000	943,991,000	868,734,000
Lard	118,923,000	203,010,000	177,316,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED meats at Chicago on September 2, 1930, compared with August 1, 1930, and August 30, 1929, were as below (per cwt.):

FRESH BEEF AND VEAL

	Sept. 2, 1930	Aug. 1, 1930	Aug. 30, 1929
STEERS (700 lbs. up):			
Choice	\$17.00-18.00	\$14.50-15.50	\$22.50-24.00
Good	15.50-17.00	13.00-14.50	21.50-22.50
STEERS (550 to 700 lbs.):			
Choice	17.00-19.00	14.50-16.00	23.00-24.00
Good	15.50-17.00	13.00-14.50	22.00-23.00
YEARLING STEERS:			
Choice	18.50-20.00	15.00-17.00	23.50-24.50
Good	17.00-18.50	14.00-15.00	21.50-23.50
COWS:			
Good	12.00-13.00	10.00-12.50	16.00-17.50
VEALERS:			
Choice	20.00-22.00	16.00-18.00	25.00-26.00
Good	18.00-20.00	15.00-16.00	24.00-25.00

FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON

LAMBS (45 lbs. down):			
Choice	\$20.00-22.00	\$17.00-19.00	\$25.00-26.00
Good	18.00-20.00	15.00-17.00	24.00-25.00
EWES:			
Good	10.00-12.00	11.00-12.00	11.00-13.00

FRESH PORK CUTS

LOINS:			
8-10 lb. av.	\$28.00-32.00	\$22.00-25.00	\$31.00-32.00
10-12 lb. av.	27.00-30.00	20.00-23.00	29.00-30.00
12-15 lb. av.	23.00-27.00	14.50-18.00	24.00-26.00
16-22 lb. av.	17.00-19.00		18.00-22.00

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GOOD SHORTHORN BULLS

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We will assist you to locate suitable Shorthorns.

American Shorthorn Breeders' Association

13 Dexter Park Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES SHOWING PRICES ON THE principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on September 2, 1930, compared with August 1, 1930, and September 3, 1929:

SLAUGHTER STEERS:	Sept. 2, 1930	Aug. 1, 1930	Sept. 3, 1929
Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.).....	\$11.50-12.50	\$10.25-11.25	\$15.75-16.75
Good	10.00-11.50	9.00-10.25	13.25-15.75
Choice (1,100 lbs. down).....	11.50-12.50	10.25-11.25	15.75-17.00
Good	10.25-11.50	9.00-10.25	13.25-15.75
Medium (800 lbs. up).....	8.00-10.25	7.50- 9.50	10.75-13.25
FED YEARLING STEERS:			
Good to Choice	10.25-12.40	9.25-11.25	13.25-16.50
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice	10.25-12.00	8.50-10.25	10.00-15.50
COWS:			
Good to Choice	5.25- 8.00	5.50- 7.75	8.75-12.00
FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:			
Good to Choice (800 lbs. up).....	7.25- 8.75	6.75- 7.50	10.50-12.50
Common to Medium	5.50- 7.25	4.50- 6.75	8.25-10.50
Good to Choice (800 lbs. down).....	7.75- 9.00	6.75- 7.50	10.50-12.50
Common to Medium	5.75- 7.75	4.75- 6.75	8.00-10.50
HOGS:			
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)....	10.85-11.35	9.15- 9.75	10.35-11.50
LAMBS:			
Medium to Choice (92 lbs. down).....	6.75- 9.35	7.00- 9.50	10.75-13.60

IMMEDIATE PROSPECT FOR HOGS
IS FAVORABLE

J. E. P.

HOGS SHOULD PAY WELL FOR THEIR BOARD DURING the coming year, despite a high corn market. A short corn crop never did fill the lard kettle to the overflow stage or crowd meat cellars with product. The old crop of hogs was cleaned up early, and packers are going into the new season with light stocks. Fresh-meat demand is healthy, and cured-meat business broad. Even lard is acting better, despite plenitude of substitutes.

There may be a deficiency in the new hog crop numerically. Certainly tonnage will be less, and, as the packing industry is well facilitated, there will be competition, as a packing-house cannot be run without hogs. The course of the market during the coming winter promises to reverse that of the previous corresponding period, as there is no pig surplus to dump from September to November and demoralize the trade, which is what happened in 1930. Growers have confidence, and, as prices were marked up early in 1930, many expect this to recur. That there will be no cheap hogs, in the sense that they have been cheap in recent years, is a reasonable assumption; that there will be an outlet for every pound of product is another. Hogs will not be carried into excessive weight, nor will they be dumped at the immature stage. Both grower and packer will have opportunity to make money, as two or three cents per pound added to the cost of the product will not repress consumption.

CURTAILMENT OF LAMB PRODUCTION
TO BE LOOKED FOR

J. E. P.

SHEEP-GROWERS HAD ANOTHER JOLT LATE IN August, when the lamb market suffered a serious relapse. After climbing well above the \$10 mark, it lost all the previous gain, refusing to keep company with cattle and hogs. The advance was due—partly, at least—to reappearance of feeder demand, which took the light end of the western crop out of killers' hands. Subsidence of threshing activity and low prices on thin lambs attracted country buyers; but the break in fat lambs checked their ardor.

Feeders advanced from a \$6-\$6.50 to a \$7.25-\$8 basis, those who had overstayed the low spot and had feed coming into the market numerously. There is a broad potential demand for feeders to turn into corn and bean fields; also, to clean up fall stubble growth; but the bald fact is that consumer demand for fat lamb does not stand up under liberal receipts, that distributive channels easily congest, and that killers are determined not to pay a nickel per pound more for lambs than necessity requires.

No heavy supply of native lambs showed up during August, farmers having abundant feed to condition them, and, somewhat strangely, native ewes were scarce at the market. However, both ewes and lambs will run freely during September and October, and there will be no lack of westerns during the same period, as the stock is there and will move.

Fat lambs appear to have found their low level at \$8.50 to \$9; feeders, at \$6 to \$6.50; and any change should be in the nature of improvement. The situation, so far as excess production is concerned, will slowly remedy itself, as breeding will be curtailed, that being the only way out. The probability is that the fat-lamb market will pick up after the turn of the year, getting good in 1931.

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Get OUR Prices

HIDE DEPRESSION CONTINUES

J. E. P.

HIDES SHOULD BE WORTH MORE MONEY, AND would be if the shoe industry picked up. Shoe production has been sharply curtailed, and dealers have been more intent on clearing shelves than on replenishment. Every cobbler in the land has been busy for months past prolonging the usefulness of the nation's footwear, accentuating stagnation in all lines of shoes except the lower price groups. In consequence, shoemakers have been in the market for reduced quantities of leather, and tanners have had no incentive to increase stocks.

Eventually the tide will turn, as it always does. Old shoes cannot be repaired indefinitely, and sooner or later the public will go to buying new goods. Prices have been slashed, which is calculated to stimulate buying. Late in August packers were able to advance hides $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 cent per pound. Sole-leather trade picked up, upper-leather business failing to respond, to the disadvantage of light packer and country hides. Reduced take-off, consequent on diminishing cattle receipts, and seasonal improvement in condition, are bullish factors. Possibly, as time works along, the tariff may become partly effective, but so far its influence has been negligible. However, since the tariff went on, imports of hides and skins have appreciably diminished.

Hides are dirt-cheap. Packer hides of the best quality are 4 to 6½ cents per pound lower than a year ago. Possibly tanners scent cheapness and are stocking up in anticipation of an upturn in sympathy with the advance in cattle. In a statistical sense, little improvement is in evidence. Stocks are considerably in excess of a year ago, while the shoe output is substantially less, having decreased 8.2 per cent compared with last year. As leather is dependent on shoe activity, resumption of manufacturing is essential to a better hide market. The situation is expected to improve during the next thirty days, as factories are already planning production-expansion programs based on low retailers' stocks—the logical sequence of drastic clearances which have put shoe prices below pre-tariff levels.

WOOL PRICES EXPECTED TO STIFFEN

J. E. P.

WOOL IS IN A STRONG STRATEGIC AND STATISTICAL position. Not that prices are advancing, or are likely to be marked up sharply, but a respectable volume of business was done at eastern concentration points during August, and, as the season works along, expansion of buying operations is considered certain. While the stock of domestic wool on the market is fairly heavy for the moment, holders of the staple are confident of the value of their property, with expectancy that prices will strengthen.

Southern Hemisphere advices are that the position of Merinos is stronger than that of cross-breeds. All foreign markets have been in the doldrums for months past. Primary markets in the Southern Hemisphere are preparing for the sale of the next clip, and in the European secondary markets business has been at low ebb. France is tied up with a mill strike, Germany is wrestling with financial stringency, and the British market is merely marking time.

Meanwhile optimism is plentifully on tap. Practically every exporter is confident of higher prices, although conservative concerning the prospective advance and just when it will develop. There is some encouragement in dealer

refusal to cut prices, and while, except in a general way, the Farm Board pool policy is not known, confidence exists that the huge holding covered by government advances will not be thrown overboard. All this should make for stability, if not higher prices, although any advance will be contingent on improvement in the world's markets, despite the new American tariff.

WOOL FUTURES MARKET

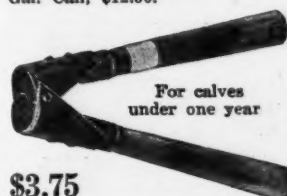
A WOOL FUTURES MARKET IS BEING LAUNCHED by the New York Cotton Exchange, to start operations November 1. The unit of trading will be 5,000 pounds of wool tops, the basic grade being 64's, with premiums and discounts for higher and lower qualities. Later, it is thought, another contract, having 50's as the basic grade, may be established.

FEEDSTUFFS

THE PRICE OF COTTONSEED CAKE AND MEAL ON September 4, f. o. b. Texas points, was \$32. At Kansas City, on September 2, hay prices were quoted as follows: Alfalfa—No. 1 extra leafy, \$25 to \$27; No. 2 extra leafy, \$23.50 to \$24.50; No. 1, \$21 to \$23; No. 2 leafy, \$19.50 to \$20.50; No. 2, \$17 to \$19; No. 3 leafy, \$15.50 to \$16.50; No. 3, \$13.50 to \$15; sample, \$12 to \$13; prairie—No. 1, \$12 to \$13; No. 2, \$10 to \$11.50; No. 3, \$7 to \$9.50; sample, \$6 to \$7; timothy—No. 1, \$15.50 to \$16.50; No. 2, \$14.50 to \$15; No. 3, \$13 to \$14; sample, \$10.50 to \$12.50; timothy-clover, mixed—No. 1, \$15.50 to \$16.50; No. 2, \$14.50 to \$15; No. 3, \$12 to \$14.



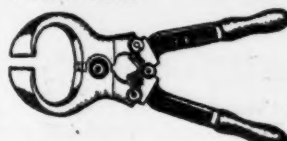
Prepaid Prices: Qt., \$1.00;
Half Gal., \$2.00; Gal., \$3.00; 5-Gal. Can, \$12.50.



For calves
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Postpaid anywhere in the U. S.
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Genuine Imported

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TRADE REVIEW

COMMERCE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

IN THE BELOW TABLES, SHOWING OUR EXPORTS and imports of live animals, meat products, hides, wool, and grains for the half-year from January to June, 1930, compared with the same period of 1929, the six months of the current year end on June 17, when the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act went into operation. We shall now wait and see what effect the new rates will have on our foreign trade in these commodities:

LIVE ANIMALS

(Numbers)

EXPORTS

	Jan.-June 1930	Jan.-June 1929
Cattle	4,223	3,580
Hogs	11,651	20,176
Sheep	1,208	520
Horses	2,993	3,713
Mules, asses, and burros	6,630	8,138
Totals.....	26,705	36,127

IMPORTS

	Jan.-June 1930	Jan.-June 1929
Cattle	192,638	283,314
Sheep	5,781	24,279
Horses	1,484	2,364
Totals.....	199,903	309,957
Hogs (pounds)	12,337	71,602

MEATS

(Pounds)

EXPORTS

(See August PRODUCER, page 33)

IMPORTS

	1930	1929
Beef, fresh	5,388,727	17,399,048
Veal, fresh	1,823,489	2,654,643
Pork, fresh	803,538	2,510,563
Mutton, fresh	104,881	1,074,720
Lamb, fresh	216,249	2,141,267
Other fresh meats	1,368,621	2,776,641
Canned meats	40,367,679	48,730,363
Beef and veal, cured	1,616,442	2,698,475
Hams and bacon	898,733	1,114,098
Pork, pickled	748,531	1,267,452
Other prepared meats	1,825,886	4,831,069
Animal oils and fats	133,574	1,131,996
Totals.....	55,296,350	88,330,335

WOOL

(Pounds)

EXPORTS

	1930	1929
Wool, unmanufactured	129,174	121,905
Wool, semi-manufactured	5,464,552	4,729,019
Totals.....	5,593,726	4,850,924

IMPORTS

	1930	1929
Wool, carpet	52,816,938	88,406,333
Wool, clothing	11,838,689	11,595,463
Wool, combing	39,379,501	65,244,275
Mohair	712,473	1,855,406

Total unmanufactured	104,747,601	167,101,477
Wool, semi-manufactured	10,967,806	19,944,203

HIDES AND SKINS

(Pounds)

EXPORTS

	Jan.-June 1930	Jan.-June 1929
Cattle hides	9,355,160	11,825,090
Calf skins	4,277,414	3,672,398
Sheep and goat skins	738,021	1,196,596
Other hides and skins	3,108,624	3,372,112
Totals.....	17,479,219	20,066,196

IMPORTS

	1930	1929
Cattle hides	128,800,986	101,539,403
Buffalo hides	1,430,435	1,595,095
Kip and calf skins	22,634,411	25,066,036
Horse, colt, ass hides	10,415,827	6,228,509
Sheep and lamb skins	30,957,420	33,402,818
Goat and kid skins	50,184,123	51,586,207
Kangaroo skins	410,918	306,711
Deer and elk skins	1,118,581	1,260,207
Reptile skins	1,327,511	716,480
Other hides and skins	2,692,325	2,826,980
Totals.....	249,972,537	224,528,446

GRAINS

(Bushels)

EXPORTS

	1930	1929
Barley	4,016,193	11,995,299
Malt	1,211,483	1,831,430
Buckwheat	6,989	176,390
Corn	5,079,662	29,471,002
Oats	744,374	2,717,812
Rye	165,701	1,060,933
Wheat	32,393,145	30,347,535
Totals.....	43,617,547	77,600,401

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS

EXPORTS OF MEAT, MEAT PRODUCTS, AND ANIMAL FATS from the United States for the month of July and the seven months ending July, 1930, as compared with the corresponding periods of the previous year, were as below (in pounds):

BEEF PRODUCTS

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Beef, fresh	377,883	358,251	1,798,314	1,865,943
Beef, pickled	1,539,152	1,667,581	7,733,849	6,712,467
Beef, canned	70,888	242,540	1,207,531	1,556,398
Other oil	3,617,423	5,043,770	29,775,386	38,322,532
Totals.....	5,604,846	7,312,092	40,515,080	48,457,340

PORK PRODUCTS

	July		Seven Months Ending July	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Pork, fresh	439,517	788,548	11,685,403	6,804,683
Pork, pickled	2,337,826	3,445,808	20,107,319	26,169,135
Bacon	5,338,844	10,949,736	66,033,101	83,671,064
Cumberland sides	267,907	481,619	3,060,897	3,858,481
Hams and shoulders	13,779,049	12,620,922	81,651,864	80,276,797
Wiltshire sides	249,273	594,683	3,427,862	3,255,037
Sausage, canned	94,157	222,143	901,022	1,358,585
Lard	51,669,599	64,273,631	426,720,436	481,493,447
Lard compounds	144,993	377,696	1,407,135	2,191,706
Neutral lard	772,143	2,166,463	8,625,968	11,776,434
Totals.....	75,093,308	95,921,249	623,621,007	700,855,369

"THE PRODUCER is a good paper, and no stockman should be without it."—WALTER BYRNE, Piedmont, Wyo.

FOREIGN

ENGLISH LIVE-STOCK LETTER

BY JOSEPH RAYMOND

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

LONDON, August 18, 1930.

THE NEWLY ISSUED AGRICULTURAL RETURNS OF England and Wales for 1930 reveal that the numbers of live stock on agricultural holdings, registered on June 4 of this year, again show reductions as compared with last year, with the exception of sheep, which showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. The reductions in the case of cattle and pigs were 1.9 and 2.6, respectively, as against 1 and 20 per cent in 1929, while the decrease in the number of horses, at 3.8 per cent, was the same as that shown last year. The total number of cattle was 5,846,000, showing a decrease of 111,600, which was relatively least in the dairy herd as a whole, which showed a reduction of 25,500. The number of sheep increased by 223,100, to 16,328,600, the addition to the number of lambs being 135,100, or 1.9 per cent, and to breeding ewes 88,700, or 1.3 per cent. Pigs numbered 2,305,700—a net reduction from the previous year of 60,800.

As to present prices of live stock, fat cattle now stand at 30 per cent above the pre-war prices, and sheep at 78 per cent above. Bacon pigs are priced at 40 per cent above the pre-war rate, and stock pigs at 49 per cent above.

A comment which has been heard among some in the trade who take the widest view of output and prices has recently been that, despite the prevalent unemployment and the general trade depression reported from all quarters and trades, England is eating quite as much meat as ever. It is true that prices have come down considerably, but that is only a part of the great deflation movement experienced in all business. It may be interesting to give a list of present wholesale prices ruling in the London Central Market, with their comparison with pre-war rates (stones of 8 pounds):

	1913	1930	Per Cent Increase
Beef—			
Scotch short sides.....	\$1.20	\$1.68	40.0
English long sides.....	1.02	1.42	39.2
Irish (Birkenhead-killed)...	1.00	1.38	38.0
Argentine chilled hindquarters .....	.80	1.40	75.0
Argentine chilled forequarters .....	.50	.70	40.0
Australian frozen hindquarters .....	.61	.86	40.9
New Zealand frozen hindquarters .....	.65	.84	29.2
New Zealand frozen forequarters .....	.49	.53	8.1
Mutton—			
Scotch	1.24	1.84	48.3
English	1.08	1.80	66.6
Ewes .....	.82	1.00	21.9
New Zealand wethers.....	.67	.90	34.3
New Zealand ewes .....	.59	.54	* 8.5
Australian wethers .....	.62	.58	* 6.5
Argentine wethers .....	.63	.60	* 4.8
Lamb—			
Scotch	1.36	2.12	55.8
English	1.28	2.12	65.6
New Zealand .....	.85	1.40	64.7

*Decrease.

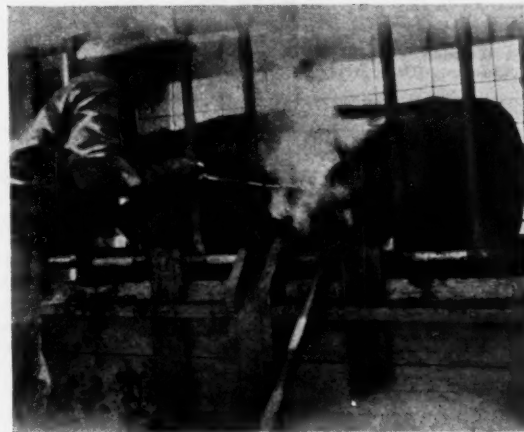
The above-mentioned maintenance of meat consumption in England remains a remarkable fact. During the first half of this year something like a million and a half more frozen lambs have been imported from the Dominions and South America; yet the English consumer has kept pace with all this larger marketing of meat, without appreciably larger stocks accumulating in the cold stores here. Habits of meat-consumers change, and the smaller joint has had all the running of late. As the toll of unemployment is so large, it must be the assistance of the government dole to the large out-of-work population which has helped to maintain this country's meat consumption.

The coming of the new business in quick-frozen packaged meat has created a big stir in the meat trade of Great Britain. The only signs of this new practice so far have been trade press reports and the appearance in the London Central Market of a trial consignment by the Swift Beef Company. The butchers of Great Britain, however, have not been slow to sense the importance of the discovery that rapid freezing reduces the damage done to meat, and the organized forces of meat-retailers have quickly assumed an attitude of opposition to the new idea.

When the sample rapid-frozen packaged meat arrived in Smithfield, London, some butcher onlookers were heard to remark: "We wish we had allowed the government to register us meat-retailers in the war." These people recognized that the coming of packaged meat would end their prerogative as the sole avenue for meat-retailing, which registration would have avoided, had the trade agreed to that proposal which was made by the government in the war period. Several meetings of the united retailers' trade organization have been held on the subject, and, although the suggestion to boycott the packaged-meat system when it arrived was negated, the tacit agreement was made that one and all should do what they could to discourage the new method. It is not at all likely that, strong as the organization of meat-retailers of Great Britain is, these traders can do much to hinder the new hygienic method when it is introduced here.

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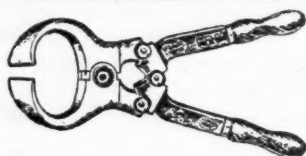
J. C. YOKUM, Designer and Builder

808 Eleventh Street, Oakland, California

THE BULLETIN BOARD

CATTLE ON FEED

The number of cattle on feed for market in the eleven Corn Belt states on August 1 was about 1 per cent smaller



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Bloodless Castrator

The bag is not cut. Cords are crushed under the skin. Safe at any age or in any weather.

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New, Safe, Clean and Scientific method that makes old and dangerous jackknife method out of date.

A proved and better way of castration and docking. Sure, quick, humane. Cord severed—no open wound or danger of infection. Testicles disappear in from 10 to 30 days. Equally good for castrating lambs, calves, colts, up to 2 years; also docking lambs. Send check or will ship C. O. D.

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than at the same date in 1929, according to estimates by the Department of Agriculture.

The states east of the Mississippi River as a whole had about 8 per cent less cattle on feed this year than last, while the states west of the river had 2 per cent more. Substantial increases in the number on feed are shown for Iowa and Nebraska, while all the other states had decreases or no change from last year.

PROBLEMS OF LIVE-STOCK PRODUCTION

In "Recommendations of the Bureau of Animal Industry on Problems of Live-Stock Production" (Miscellaneous Publication No. 81 of the Department of Agriculture), Dr. John R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, goes briefly into the subjects of breeding and improvement, care and management, and disease control. Under the first of these divisions, the question of crossing of breeds is touched upon in this fashion:

"The crossing of established breeds of live stock of different types, such as beef and dairy cattle, seldom gives the results expected and is usually an undesirable practice. The crossing of long-wool on fine-wool sheep, especially in the range states, is an exception to this rule. Similar types of live stock, particularly swine, when cross-bred, often make excellent animals for general utility and market purposes, but their offspring have such mixed heredity that they are practically useless in systematic herd improvement. Consistent work with one

well-chosen breed is more likely to give satisfaction and be profitable than attempts at cross-breeding."

On "grading up" Dr. Mohler says:

"Grading up herds and flocks by the use of purebred sires of individual merit is an economical and practical means of live-stock improvement. The benefits accumulate rapidly in such respects as greater uniformity, improved quality, and increased utility value."

Inbreeding and pure-breeding are dealt with thus:

"Inbreeding should be practiced only by the most skilful breeders, and by them only when they have definite knowledge of the ancestry of their animals and are prepared for possible disappointment in the results obtained. Inbreeding for market production is an unwise procedure. Intensive inbreeding brings to light hidden characteristics and quickly leads to a fixation of type. There is ever present, however, the possibility that poor rather than good characteristics will be brought to light and fixed, thus resulting in rapid degeneration of the stock.

"The breeding of purebred live stock is a fascinating and inspiring branch of the industry. Success depends to a large extent on one's ability as a judge of live stock, and knowledge of breeding principles and of the pedigrees for the breeding stock available for use. Standards in pure-breeding are exacting, and the undertaking requires a high degree of business ability in the successful advertising and sale of surplus stock. Inexperienced breeders of purebred stock are advised to make a small beginning and build on it gradually, rather than to make a large initial investment."

"The bureau is optimistic concerning the future of the live-stock industry," says the author in conclusion.

"Statistics indicate that live stock will not increase in numbers so fast as the human population. As land becomes more valuable and human population increases, dairy or dual-purpose cattle probably will replace beef cattle in some degree, especially near cities. Better live stock of all kinds must replace inefficient, inferior kinds, if stock-owners are to prosper."

This bulletin of fourteen pages is a valuable condensation of some of the important problems facing the breeder or feeder of live stock. It may be had for the price of 5 cents on application to the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

THRIFTY SHEEP GROW MOST WOOL

The character of a sheep's fleece is largely within the control of flock-owners, says the Department of Agriculture. An investigation by the Bureau of Animal Industry indicates that there is a close relationship between the thriftiness of sheep and the quality and quantity of

Your Cattle Will Operate It

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

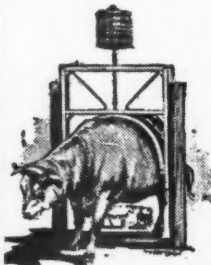
W. G. Heyne, Sec., Laramie, Wyo.
 Automatic Currying & Dipping Machine Co.,
 Pender, Neb.

Dear Mr. Heyne:

We have been using the two cattle currying and dipping machines in our lots. They were not erected promptly when received, as we have been extremely busy. They are now, however, in operation. The herdsmen report them as very satisfactory. It took some time for the cattle to become used to them, but they seem to be very suitable for the purpose for which they are used.

Cordially yours,

(Signed) FRED S. HULTZ,
 Head, Animal Husbandry Department.



We invite investigation. Write to any farmer or feeder who is a user of the Automatic Currying and Dipping Machine.

Write today for prices and descriptive literature
Automatic Currying & Dipping Machine Co.

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PENDER, NEBRASKA

wool produced. Fibers were found to grow fastest and coarsest in summer and fall, and slowest and finest in winter, but generally the period of greatest wool growth was also associated with a thrifty condition of the animal. In ewes, least wool growth occurred during lambing time and the forty-five days preceding.

ARTIFICIAL WOOL

To rayon and the many other substitutes of "something just as good and cheaper" which are flooding our markets and making such heavy inroads on the production of standard raw materials must now be added artificial wool. In 1929 the output of this new competitor of the sheep's fleece was reported to reach 10,000,000 pounds. Half a dozen companies are said to be specializing in it.

Artificial wool is manufactured from the fibers of a plant, "ramie," grown in the Far East, notably China, Japan, and India. Efforts have been made to cultivate it in this country—California, Louisiana, and Florida. The product is used for suitings, felts, carpets, and blankets. It is coarser and not so pliable as wool, and costs only about one-third as much.

SUBSTITUTE FOR COTTON

Believing that it has discovered a cheap and effective cotton substitute in the Asiatic "kender" plant, the Soviet government is undertaking its cultivation on a large scale in Kazakstan, we read in a press dispatch. Alexander Krasnachokoff, who heads a special kender trust created for this enterprise, thinks that within two years the kender crop will amount to at least one-third the present cotton production in the Soviet Union. Eventually he foresees a place in the world market for kender which may deeply encroach upon the economic domain of cotton.

Kender—a Mongolian word meaning "fiber"—in Canada is known as "dog's

death." The plant grows in bushes with long stems composed of a hemp-like fiber which, when boiled or subjected to certain chemical treatment, can be used for weaving textiles. It is a much hardier plant than cotton, and grows in colder as well as more arid regions. This enables its cultivation in large areas where cotton cannot be acclimated. Moreover, kender production per acre is far greater than cotton yield.

DEHORNING WITHOUT BLOOD LOSS

"We have learned how to avoid the danger of worms by dehorning at the proper time," writes Harvey Russell in the *Western Cattle Markets and News* of San Francisco. "However, in my opinion the great economic loss is due to loss of blood. By pulling the arteries through which the blood is ejected, loss of blood can be reduced to a minimum."

"There is no necessity for any animal bleeding over a tablespoon if the arteries are pulled out. Anyone who can clip or saw off a horn can take a pair of forceps and pull the artery. The artery may be easily located by observing the flow of blood. Once the artery is engaged by the pliers or forceps, just pull like pulling an angworm out of the earth. Usually 1¼ to 2½ inches come out before breaking off. The muscles surrounding the vacancy left by removal of the artery constrict and stop the flow of blood. Bleeding, except from the small seep from the incision of the skin, immediately stops."

INCREASES IN OUR FOOD INTAKE

One hundred and fifty pounds was our average increase in food consumption during the last generation. We consume fewer cereals, but more sugar, fruits, and milk products, E. G. Montgomery, chief of the Foodstuffs Division of the Department of Commerce, informs us, as reported in the *Journal of Commerce*, Chicago. There has been a notable decline in consumption of wheat flour, buckwheat, and rye flour, but the most striking decline has been in the use of corn meal.

"We can remember when supper was usually corn-meal mush and milk, with fried mush and molasses and butter for breakfast. That was when dinner arrived at noon, and was the big meal of the day. Along in 1900 per-capita consumption of sugar was 61 pounds a year. Now it is around 105 pounds. Fats and oils have jumped from 34 to 44 pounds. Dairy-products consumption has increased from 840 to 1,040 pounds, and fresh fruits from 169 to 192 pounds per capita. Meat consumption has been about the same for thirty years, ranging from 142 to 145 pounds a year, with sharp fluctuations up and down at times, perhaps caused by fluctuations in price."

The Producer is receiving inquiries from people wanting to buy stock cattle (cows and calves); also feeding steers and heifers. An advertisement should bring prompt results.

BELSKY'S HEREFORDS

The Prince Domino 5th, a straight-bred son by The Prince Domino, recently sold for \$10,000, heads my herd. We can supply you with your wants. Annual sale at ranch October 14.

ED. BELSKY, Merriman, Neb.

FOR SALE

200 full-blood cows and calves
170 two- and three-year-old heifers
60 good yearling past bulls
200 full-blood heifer calves

OWNBEY & YOUNG Portales, N. M.

FOR SALE

About 400 head of high-grade Hereford heifer yearlings, good enough for any foundation breeding herd, all in one small brand. Located Lea County, New Mexico. Address

Merchant Live Stock Co., Carlsbad, N. M.

THE AMERICAN ROMNEY BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

Over 225 head to select from. Our Secretary will be glad to assist you. Write him at 629 Poirier Street, Oakland, California.

FOR SALE—Yearling ewes, feeder lambs, and feeder ewes. Priced right. Write for prices.

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FOR SALE

Five-thousand-acre ranch, at right price and terms.

A. H. Harris, Las Vegas, N. M.

FOR SALE

Ranch, 1,460 acres. Fine bluestem pasture; well watered; one set of improvements; 2½ miles from loading station. Inquire

DR. F. L. MURDOCK
Manhattan, Kan.

EXCELLENT fenced cattle pasture, consisting of 36,000 acres near Williams, Arizona, on Santa Fe Railroad. Will rent for one year for one thousand cattle. Price, \$6,000. Terms if desired. For information or details communicate with

CHARLES E. BURTON, Williams, Ariz.

HARDY ALFALFA SEED

90% pure, \$8.80

Sweet Clover, 95% pure, \$3.50

All 60-lb. bushel

Return if not satisfied

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ROUND THE RANGE

RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK REPORT FOR AUGUST

Ranges.—Hot, dry weather during late June and July had resulted in short range feed in Montana, Texas, Oregon, Oklahoma, Washington, and the western Dakotas, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its August report. Ranges in these states needed rain. In Wyoming, western Kansas and Nebraska, Utah, Nevada, and Idaho, ranges were dry, but there was generally a good supply of feed. California showed little change, but rain was needed there too. In Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona, ranges had been improved by rains, and feed prospects were good.

Cattle.—Dry ranges had resulted in a decline in the condition of cattle. Cattle did well during July in Colorado, New

Mexico, Arizona, western Nebraska, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and California. If rains did not provide feed, forced shipments might result in Montana, parts of Texas, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, the western Dakotas, and Oklahoma. Continued drought might result in earlier movements from dry areas. In areas that had ample feed there was the possibility of a tendency to delay shipments. Reports from some sections indicated that cattle might be held over, if feed and financial conditions permitted.

Sheep.—Sheep and lambs were in good condition, especially in the high ranges. Some decline was shown in the drier parts of Montana, Texas, and Wyoming, and slight shrinkage was evident in parts of Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Washington, Utah, and a few other places. Sheep and lambs did well during July in California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. Indications were that lambs from dry areas might be a little lighter than last fall. Few feeder lambs had been contracted, and there was a light local demand for old ewes. If rains were not received in some dry areas, shipments of sheep and lambs from these sections would be heavy.

WESTERN CATTLE MARKETINGS IN FALL OF 1930

Marketings of cattle from the seventeen states west of the line of the Missouri River during the five months August to December of the current year will probably not be greatly different from those of last year, according to a report issued by the Department of Agriculture. This estimate is based upon conditions prevailing about the middle of August. There is little possibility of much improvement in winter-range and feed-crop prospects in most of these states from now on, but a further decline is possible, especially in Oklahoma and Texas, if normal fall moisture is lacking. Any material decline is apt to result in marketings considerably larger than last year.

If range and feed conditions were average over these states, a material reduction in cattle marketings would be the reaction of producers to the sharp

drop in prices. The general disposition is to hold marketings to a minimum, wherever this does not involve the necessity of purchasing additional feed supplies. Range conditions in many of the important cattle states, however, are poor, and prospective supplies of feeds and forage are short. Where such conditions prevail, heavy marketings of cattle are to be expected, since there seems to be little disposition to contract further obligations for the purchase of feeds to carry increased numbers of cattle, and financial conditions would hardly make such action possible, even if desired.

With or Without.—"Do you drink your tea with or without rum?"

"With rum, please, but without tea."—*Dorfbarbier (Berlin).*

No Immediate Response Looked For.—"Bredren," said the colored preacher, "you have come to pray foh rain. Bredren, de foundation of religion am faith. Whar is yo' faith? You comes to pray foh rain, and not one of you brings his umbrella."—*De Laval Monthly.*

Not for Georgie!—He—"We must economize. Suppose, darling, that you try your hand at making your own clothes?"

She—"Oh, George, dear, I could never do that! Suppose I begin by trying to make yours."—*Weekly Scotsman.*

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Producers Commission Association
Sioux City, Iowa

Iowa Live Stock Marketing Association
Des Moines, Iowa

Producers Live Stock Commission Association
National Stock Yards, Illinois

Peoria Producers Commission Association
Peoria, Illinois

Evansville Producers Commission Association
Evansville, Indiana

Producers Commission Association
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